



MARTIAL WORLD

BOOK 16

Cocooned Cow

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Martial World

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Synopsis

In the Realm of the Gods, countless legends fought over a mysterious cube. However, after the battle it disappeared into the void. Lin Ming stumbles upon this mysterious cube and begins his journey to become the hero of the land.

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Chapter 1501 – Opening the Coffin

“Lin Ming, you think that the Essence Spirit Embryo Stone is sealed within the coffin?” Xiao Moxian immediately knew what Lin Ming was thinking from the light in his eyes.

“It really might be so.”

Lin Ming walked near to the ancient bronze coffin. This coffin had lain here for countless years and the surface of it was covered with carved images. These images included fierce Asura demons, ancient vicious beasts, and even martial artists of other races.

Thick chains wrapped around this coffin, and every chain buckle was covered with runes. Because too much time had passed, the divine iron that formed the ancient coffin and chains was stained with rust, filled with an atmosphere that seemed to come from the deepest depths of time.

Through the crevices in these iron chains, Lin Ming could see the scenes on the ancient coffin. There were Asura demons eating humans and even humans burning demons as a sacrifice to Asuras.

There were also ancient vicious beasts ripping apart people to shreds as well as people striking vicious beasts and drinking their blood.

In short, all of these scenes were filled with a tyrannical, brutal, and cruel feeling. Looking at them caused killing intent to surge in the heart, as if it would erupt at any moment.

Lin Ming squatted down near the ancient bronze coffin. The coffin was as wide and tall as the book, appearing extremely heavy. The coffin lid and coffin body seemed cast together, without the slightest gap separating them.

“This ancient bronze coffin also exudes demonic power...” Lin Ming’s eyes sharpened. The demonic tide that occasionally erupted in Tragic Death Valley was related to the first volume of the Asura

Sutra, but a part of it also came from this ancient bronze coffin!

“If we open it will something ominous happen?” Xiao Moxian weakly said as she saw all the violent carvings atop the coffin. Tragic Death Valley had existed for billions of years, and with the time enchantment here, dozens of billions of years had passed. For such a long time, this ancient bronze coffin had existed within the center of the God Beast Tomb array formation. It was hard to imagine just how much essence energy was absorbed here and what it could have been breeding.

It had to be known that the things in Tragic Death Valley could easily kill a World King. If this Essence Spirit Embryo Stone had already taken form then the terrifying strength it possessed was something neither she nor Lin Ming could deal with.

“Lin Ming, do you think that these chains are locking in the embryo stone to prevent it from breaking out of the coffin?” Xiao Moxian suddenly asked. Lin Ming was silent for a moment. There was indeed a great risk if they opened up the ancient coffin, especially when he still knew so little about the Asura Sutra’s first volume.

“Maybe. But no matter what happens if I open the ancient coffin, I will still open it. Still, I must fully perceive the Asura Sutra first.”

Lin Ming would certainly open the ancient coffin. In order to arrive here he had to take numerous risks and complete something that countless ancient heroes had never done before. Now, he would soon obtain the Asura Road Master’s inheritance. If anyone were to tell him to give up here then that would simply be a joke.

All Lin Ming could do now was to thoroughly perceive the Asura Sutra to reduce the risk to the smallest level possible.

Like this, Lin Ming sat in meditation in front of the Asura Sutra and assiduously enlightened himself upon it.

As for Xiao Moxian, she also accompanied Lin Ming in meditating

on the Asura Sutra together. Of course, in terms of comprehending the Asura Sutra, Lin Ming was naturally faster than she was.

Thus, if Xiao Moxian were to run into any questions of spots she found difficult to understand, she was able to consult Lin Ming.

Slowly, Xiao Moxian also gained a deep understanding of the Asura Sutra. Her perception was extraordinary to begin with, and in addition to Lin Ming's guidance, her rate of growth slowly rose. This caused Lin Ming to praise her without end. In terms of perception alone, she indeed surpassed him.

Training passed without sense of time. Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian sat in meditation within this hall every day. Like this, a full year passed them by.

Whether it was Lin Ming or Xiao Moxian, the foundation of their mortal bodies was outstanding. And, the Asura Sutra First Volume revolved around cultivating the mortal body. The Asura Sutra cultivated essence, energy, and divine. The main difference from other cultivation methods was that when the Asura Sutra was cultivated to the extreme, a martial artist could gather essence, energy, and divine unto themselves and then reach an inconceivable boundary.

However, every positive had a negative. Although the Asura Sutra was a cultivation method that pointed towards the peak of all martial arts, the route it took to get there was extremely time intensive. It required a massive accumulation of time, on the magnitude of millions of years, in order to show its true strength.

The days of seclusion were boring and dry. As Lin Ming meditated, he often exchanged information and insights. At the start, it was him helping Xiao Moxian. But afterwards, Xiao Moxian provided him with many unique thoughts and inspirations.

Due to the limit of their cultivation it was impossible for them to cultivate the Asura Sutra First Volume to the limit. Even so, the

two of them fully carved the Asura Sutra First Volume deep into their hearts. Now, even if they lost the ancient bronze book they could still recall the Asura Sutra in full detail, including the various Concepts and textures and feelings of the runes.

Another half year passed. Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian combined everything they understood into one. At this point, they had already spent a total of nine years in Tragic Death Valley.

In these nine years, Lin Ming's cultivation had made considerable progress, in particular, the last half year in which he was perceiving the Asura Sutra First Volume. He was only half a step from reaching the Divine Lord realm.

"I see. So this is the original appearance of the God Burying Ridge's dao field..."

After perceiving the Asura Sutra First Volume, Lin Ming recalled the traces of the dao field that were carved within the emperor jade. Many things he couldn't understand before had suddenly become clear to him.

Now, if Lin Ming were to leave Tragic Death Valley and explore God Burying Ridge, he could rely on his understanding of the Asura Sutra to wander about with absolute freedom and safety, even with his eyes closed.

"God Burying Ridge is divided into death roads and life roads. When life roads reach the extreme, mortals can safely enter and exit. When death roads reach the extreme, even World Kings will perish. And of God Burying Ridge's extreme death roads, there are a total of seven spots."

Lin Ming murmured to himself. The so-called guides of God Burying Ridge were the product of the countless experiences and knowledge accumulated by their seniors. These people had tested the many death roads until they had found the one life road into God Burying Ridge. They simply didn't understand the true principles that lay behind the God Burying Ridge's dao field, and

had simply relied on their own empirical methods of testing to find a way to avoid danger. This was why being a God Burying Ridge guide was such a dangerous occupation, one that always teetered on a knife's edge.

Then, Lin Ming's eyes flashed open from his meditation. He stood up and walked towards the ancient bronze coffin.

Xiao Moxian's thoughts stirred. "Lin Ming, are you planning to open the coffin now?"

During these past days, she and Lin Ming had reached a bottleneck in their understanding of the Asura Sutra. This was the limit placed upon them by their cultivation level and broadness of their horizons. Until they became stronger, it would be hard to experience another breakthrough.

When a martial artist cultivated the martial path, it was impossible for them to go into seclusion and directly leap up several large boundaries. They had to constantly adventure and gain more experiences, and then realize new things from these experiences. They had to constantly fight in order to temper themselves. If they were to go into seclusion for all their life, not only would that weaken a martial artist's true combat strength, but it would cause their comprehension of Laws and cultivation methods to stagnate.

"Now is as good a time as any." Lin Ming nodded his head. "We've been in Tragic Death Valley for nine years now. We've done everything that we can and have reached the limit of what we can accomplish here. It's about time that we think of leaving this valley, but before we go I must open this coffin."

Lin Ming took out the emperor jade from his inner world. Then, he held the emperor jade in his hand as he prepared himself to open the ancient bronze coffin. The risks were unknown and it was impossible to know just what would come out from the ancient coffin. It might be an unrivalled treasure but it also might be a life-

reaping killing intent!

With the emperor jade in hand, Lin Ming felt things would be much safer. Thinking about it, the Asura Road Master shouldn't have deliberately left a killing trap here for his future inheritors to open. That would simply be too great of a joke.

Because too much time had passed, the chains on the ancient coffin had melded together with it. Lin Ming took a deep breath, linking his hands together and forming hundreds of seals, each seal resonating with the runes on the chains.

In that instant, the runes on the chains began to shimmer one at a time. The entire hall was illuminated with a dazzling light. With a light popping sound, all of the chains fell apart.

Lin Ming pressed his hands on the coffin and glanced at Xiao Moxian. "Do you plan on staying here?"

Lin Ming cautioned her. He was afraid that if some evil being really did emerge, then Xiao Moxian would suffer a gruesome fate like he would. But if she left earlier then she would be able to survive.

Xiao Moxian chuckled, indifferently saying, "At this time do you really think I would change my mind? Hey, if I'm here maybe I'll be the one saving your life."

Xiao Moxian wasn't bragging. In terms of overall strength, although she was inferior to Lin Ming, she wasn't too far off. If Lin Ming encountered some danger then with Xiao Moxian here he would have a much higher chance of surviving.

Lin Ming faintly smiled. He didn't bother speaking any more. His fingers suddenly grasped down and gripped two corners of the ancient coffin.

With a loud shout, crackling sounds emitted from all over his body. The Heretical God Force erupted, the Eight Inner Hidden Gates opened, and from behind Lin Ming the phantom of a True

Dragon appeared!

At this time, he bent down, focusing his strength into his waist. His spine curved like a taut bow as all his strength passed into his arms. A power equal to nearly a billion jins of strength suddenly broke out!

Rumble rumble rumble!

The ancient bronze coffin that had lain here for 100 billion years was shoved open by Lin Ming!

In that moment, it seemed as if what Lin Ming pushed open was not the lid of a coffin but a door leading to another world!

Ka ka ka ka!

The entire bronze temple shook. The ground trembled. With loud rustling sound, a beam of light descended from high above, shining atop the Asura Sutra. Countless runes of the Great Dao swirled about, gathering together in a purple kaleidoscope to form a door of light!

“This is... a portal!?”

Xiao Moxian held her breath. For a door of light to suddenly appear, seeming as if another world was behind it, this should be a portal!

Did this portal lead to the outside?

Xiao Moxian couldn't help but think this, a sense of excitement rising in her mind.

She had already stayed in the absolute darkness of Tragic Death Valley for several years. Moreover, before she entered the God Beast Tomb with Lin Ming, a wisp of despair had begun growing in her heart. Now that she realized she could soon leave Tragic Death Valley, how could she not be excited?

However, being pleasantly surprised was only one matter. At this time, Xiao Moxian's concentration was completely focused on

what was happening around her. Her right hand touched her spatial ring, ready to deal with any dangers that arose.

What was in the ancient coffin?

If it were a treasure, then they could naturally take it and everyone would have a happy ending. But if it were an evil being, then both she and Lin Ming would face a life or death crisis.

Chapter 1502 – Essence Energy Heaven Pill

The moment that the ancient coffin opened, a vast and terrifying tide of demonic power gushed forth. Lin Ming leapt backwards, extracting the Phoenix Blood Spear at the same time even as he revolved his true essence to the limit!

The heavy ancient coffin revealed a pitch black interior without the least bit of sound.

Lin Ming's complexion was solemn. He sent out a wisp of his divine sense to probe the ancient coffin. As soon as he did, he felt his heart skip a beat.

Within the coffin were hundreds of thousands of god runes. And these god runes were all pasted along a 10 foot high divine stone, sealing it tightly within.

This divine stone calmly lay within the ancient bronze coffin. After 100 billion years of being sealed, it was finally freed from its chains.

Probing deeply with his sense, Lin Ming could feel that this divine stone seemed to have some sort of embryo breeding within it. There was a heartbeat and breathing of heaven and earth origin energy, as if it were constantly growing and evolving.

The breath that it exuded was like 10,000 year spirit grass, carrying with it an intoxicating aroma.

Without a doubt, this divine stone was the Essence Spirit Embryo Stone!

Lin Ming carefully investigated the god runes atop the Essence Spirit Embryo Stone and discovered that the dao patterns had a sealing effect. They sealed away the Essence Spirit Embryo Stone, allowing it to constantly absorb a large amount of essence energy to grow, but preventing it from forming its own wisdom.

As Lin Ming discovered this, he let out a light breath. It seemed

that the Asura Road Master was extremely thoughtful in his actions, otherwise, if the Essence Spirit Embryo Stone was bred for too long and absorbed too much power, then its strength might surpass the level of his potential successor. If that were true, then this entire ordeal would be tragic.

After determining that there weren't any dangers, only then did Lin Ming carefully approach the coffin.

Within the coffin, besides the Essence Embryo Stone, there was also a bronze box. Lin Ming investigated the bronze box for a little before discovering that there was a separate space sealed within it.

Lin Ming thought for a moment and then picked up the bronze box. This box didn't seem special at all, but it was heavy to the touch. All sorts of god runes patterned its surface.

These god runes had the effect of slowing down time. Lin Ming quickly calculated and came to a surprising conclusion. Within this bronze box, time flowed at a speed over 10,000 times slower, and the method of sealing prevented the outside world from affecting the contents within.

“What is inside?”

Lin Ming thought. He formed a seal with his hand to undo the bindings on the bronze box.

As Lin Ming opened the box, a rich medicinal fragrance rushed up his nose. Within the bronze box was a deep green pill the size of a longan. This pill glittered as if it were carved from crystal, as beautiful as jade. There was a little mass of origin energy fluttering about within the pill as if there was some life form within it.

Just smelling this medicinal fragrance caused Lin Ming's pores to open all over his body and stretch out to absorb this medicinal fragrance; it was extremely comfortable.

“This is definitely an immortal pill that surpasses the level of a transcendent divine pill. The benefits of absorbing it are

unimaginable.”

As Lin Ming saw this pill, he realized what the function of the bronze box was. The over 10,000:1 slowing of the time flow was to prevent the pill from undergoing too long a time so that it didn't decay. In addition, the pill was covered in layers of god runes to keep the spiritual energy of the pill overflowing with abundance and prevent any medicinal efficacy from leaking out.

Near this pill was also a jade slip. Sinking his sense into this jade slip, Lin Ming saw a few simple lines of words.

“Essence Energy Heaven Pill. The one who uses it can solidify their own essence energy and be reborn.

“For those that have not cultivated body transformation, they may smell this medicinal fragrance for two hours a day. For those that have reached small success of body transformation, they may take one-third of the Essence Energy Heaven Pill every day. As for those that have reached large success of body transformation, they may take the complete pill.”

“Essence Energy Heaven Pill!”

Lin Ming's thoughts stirred. From the name and description of this pill, he could tell that it was mainly focused on 'essence' from the three cultivation methods of essence, energy, and divine. This was a miracle medicine used to nourish the mortal body.

The first volume of the Asura Sutra was a set of arcane techniques specially used to cultivate the mortal body. However, if the one who opened the Asura Sutra had a shaky and sloppy mortal body foundation, then wanting to train in the Asura Sutra First Volume would be as difficult as ascending to the heavens.

In order to prevent this situation from happening, the Asura Road Master had especially prepared this type of body transformation medicine. It could be said that it was perfectly thorough in his planning.

But, even though this pill looked crystalline and beautiful, eating it wouldn't be so easy. According to the brief introduction from the jade slip, a person who had never cultivated body transformation simply didn't possess the qualifications to take this pill; they could only smell the medicinal fragrance daily. For those that had reached small success of body transformation, they could take a third of the pill. Only those who reached large success of body transformation could swallow the entire pill.

Lin Ming believed that with the Asura Road Master's vision, he could only be considered as barely reaching large success of body transformation if he opened the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace. Currently, he would only be able to swallow a third of the pill.

“Lin Ming, you picked up a treasure.”

Xiao Moxian also recognized how valuable this pill was. If this pill were to wander into the world, then even Emphyreans would brutally battle for it.

Lin Ming faintly smiled. “We found it together. This pill, part of it is yours.”

“I don't want it.” Xiao Moxian shook her head. “The reason we were able to arrive here is thanks to you. The one who passed the test of the Asura Road Master and thus the one who was selected by him is also you. As for me, I haven't even done anything up until now, but I still managed to learn an unsurpassed sutra. To me, that is far more luck than I deserve. I don't like to owe anyone anything. The reason we can leave this place is all due to your efforts. All of the treasures obtain in this bronze temple will naturally belong to you. I won't take anything at all.”

Xiao Moxian was someone who would never maliciously covet things that weren't her own. But, Lin Ming shook his head and said, “I'll take the Essence Spirit Embryo Stone, but this pill we will divide equally.”

No matter how it was said, Xiao Moxian had followed him for

nine full years. Whether it was being hunted down by Tian Mingzi or forced into Tragic Death Valley, the main cause of all this was Lin Ming. Xiao Moxian had only been dragged into this mess because of him.

In addition, for these last nine years, Xiao Moxian had always held an attitude of sharing life and death with Lin Ming. To Lin Ming, this was worth giving at least half this pill to Xiao Moxian, otherwise he would always feel regret.

Xiao Moxian seemed as if she wanted to argue, but Lin Ming said, “Let’s not argue about this. I’ll refine the Essence Spirit Embryo Stone first and then we can discuss the matter of leaving. Leaving shouldn’t be a problem, but there is likely to be some people waiting in ambush outside!”

Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian had been in Tragic Death Valley for nine years, and around ten months had passed outside. To long-lived martial artists, waiting for ten months wasn’t anything at all.

Moreover, the one hunting them down was Tian Mingzi, someone who had a blood enmity with him. Tian Mingzi was someone who possessed vast ambitions, and his personality was naturally sinister and cruel. Lin Ming would never underestimate how patient Tian Mingzi could be. Let alone ten months, even if it were several years Lin Ming would still be extremely careful when leaving and prepare to deal with Tian Mingzi’s revenge at any moment.

“Tian Mingzi... how do you plan on dealing with him?” Xiao Moxian’s thoughts turned grim. Tian Mingzi was a Great World King!

Lin Ming said, “I will absorb the Essence Spirit Embryo Stone first and then consider it further.”

Chapter 1503 – Swallowing the Sacred Spirit

Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian were both at the peak of the Divine Transformation realm. With their current cultivation levels it was simply far too difficult to directly confront Tian Mingzi. It had to be known that the Good Fortune Saint Son was at the peak of the Saint Lord realm and over an entire large boundary higher than Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian. Even so, he was unable to fight with a Great World King, and could only escape from them.

Now, Lin Ming guessed that Tian Mingzi was guarding the outside. Even If Lin Ming were to go into seclusion within Tragic Death Valley for 100-200 years, he still wouldn't be Tian Mingzi's match.

This was because going into seclusion within a comfortable and relaxed environment would cause one's strength progression to be far too slow.

Lin Ming arrived in front of the Essence Spirit Embryo Stone and gently traced the patterns on the rough rock. Lin Ming had long since imprinted the god runes that the Asura Road Master had used to seal away the Essence Spirit Embryo Stone into his heart, and unraveling them should be easy.

Lin Ming's fingers sprang froth, creating several hundred array symbols that flew out to undo the seals.

Every time a seal was undone, Lin Ming would take a short break and adjust himself. After all, he had no choice but to be careful with this Essence Spirit Embryo Stone that had been nourished by God Beast bones for billions of years.

As the seals were halfway undone, the life activities within the Essence Spirit Embryo Stone became increasingly fierce. From deep within the stone, a deep and resonant roar echoed out, as if hundreds of God Beasts were rushing out from the Essence Spirit Embryo Stone.

“These are God Beast spirits.”

Lin Ming’s pupils shrank. This Essence Spirit Embryo Stone had been nourished by the God Beast array formation, so it was inevitable that God Beast spirits would be fused into it.

Not just that, but as Lin Ming undid more and more of the seals, the Essence Spirit Embryo Stone emitted an increasingly strong demonic power! A faint howling began to gather between the heavens and earth.

Chi chi chi!

As the seal was two-thirds undone, the Essence Spirit Embryo Stone continued to pour forth black demonic energy into the surrounding space. Xiao Moxian felt her heart gripped as she saw all of this. Even if the Essence Spirit Embryo Stone had been sealed away by the Asura Road Master, after all these billions of years it had simply absorbed far too much essence energy. It would not be easy to handle!

“Lin Ming, do you plan to undo the seal on the Essence Spirit Embryo Stone now? I’ve heard that in ancient times, there were martial artists that formed a true avatar, but they were not able to erase the spiritual wisdom of that avatar. As a result, their consciousness was swallowed up by their avatar and their bodies were stolen instead!”

There were many types of people that cultivated avatars through the times, and this type of avatar was actually divided into two types. The first was like Empyrean Divine Dream who sundered their own primordial spirit using an arcane technique to divide their soul in two. Like this, the avatar they formed would originate from the same source; the avatar was the true self, and the true self was the avatar. Like this, the two could fuse back together without any backlash.

The second kind was what Lin Ming was planning to do, using a spiritual object to form their avatar. This type of spiritual object

originally had a wisdom of its own, and if one failed to refine it, the avatar would instead steal the body of the true self and the true self would become the avatar.

“I know.” Lin Ming simply replied, continuing to undo the seals.

Seeing Lin Ming’s resolve, Xiao Moxian no longer spoke out. But, by just undoing two-thirds of the seal, the power that the avatar revealed already surpassed Lin Ming!

If he failed to control it, all that would await him was annihilation.

“Heretical God Force!”

Lin Ming gathered his hands together. The phantom of the Heretical God Tree appeared behind him.

A terrifying power of thunder and fire heavenly tribulation recklessly fell onto the Essence Spirit Embryo Stone like waterfalls of red and purple.

Thunder and flames were extremely good forces for refining embryo stones.

In the legends, when the world was being created, a holy goddess had fired up clay figurines to create all the varied creatures of life. As for thunder, there was even less to say about it. The Essence Spirit Embryo Stone was first formed by a strike of lightning.

As the power of thunder and fire heavenly tribulation pressed down on the Essence Spirit Embryo Stone, the Essence Spirit Embryo Stone suddenly popped open its eyes!

These dark gray eyes revealed a deep hatred and burning cruelty, making one feel cold upon seeing them!

This Essence Spirit Embryo Stone already had a wisdom of its own.

As more and more demonic power flushed out like a tide, the will of the Essence Spirit Embryo Stone became increasingly terrifying.

Standing nearby, both Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian paled. Just how would they subdue such a terrifying will!?

At this time, Xiao Moxian saw Lin Ming continue to undo the seal as if he wasn't afraid at all. Now, only a fifth of the Asura Road Master's seal was left. As more and more of the seal unraveled, the Essence Spirit Embryo Stone became that much stronger. If the seal was completely undone, even Xiao Moxian found it hard to imagine just how formidable the Essence Spirit Embryo Stone would become!

“Uwooo!”

The Essence Spirit Embryo Stone emitted an ear-piercing roar. It crazily struggled about, causing stone chips to fall down from the surface of the divine stone. The Essence Spirit Embryo Stone was soon about to conceive its human form!

As it looked at Lin Ming, its eyes revealed nothing but greed and wild cruelty. This sort of feeling was like a wild beast seeing its most delicious prey.

To the newborn Essence Spirit Embryo Stone, Lin Ming, with his incomparably powerful blood vitality, was a truly wonderful meal!

“Lin Ming, be careful!”

As she watched the final seal be undone by Lin Ming, Xiao Moxian's complexion changed and she nearly lost her voice as she shouted out to him. At this time, the Essence Spirit Embryo Stone's will had reached a terrifyingly powerful degree. Even a Great World King might have their body wrested away! Even though Xiao Moxian had great faith in Lin Ming's abilities, she still felt panic surge through her. The current situation had far surpassed their control! The Spirit Essence Embryo Stone had been nurtured for countless years. Even with the suppression of the Asura Road Master's array formation, it had reached an incredibly dreadful boundary.

“Ohh!”

The moment that the seal was fully undone, the Essence Spirit Embryo Stone emitted a tearing screech. Its will formed a bloody and ominous sword, crazily lashing out at the thunder and fire emitted by Lin Ming.

It wanted to reverse the situation and seize Lin Ming's body, turning Lin Ming into its temporary body and avatar.

Puff!

Lin Ming stared blankly on as this shimmering red sword of will pierced through the point between his eyebrows. Lin Ming's body suddenly shook and he stepped backwards, his face pale.

“Lin Ming!” Xiao Moxian cried out in alarm. She thought that Lin Ming would use some trump card before the sword of will pierced him, but she never imagined that Lin Ming wouldn't do anything at all, instead allowing the sword of will to thrust into his spiritual sea!

It had to be known that the battle of wresting control of his body would occur in Lin Ming's spiritual sea. Because of the massive battle within, it might cause damage to Lin Ming's spiritual sea.

To hold a decisive battle within Lin Ming's spiritual sea, even if the Essence Spirit Embryo Stone was defeated it could still escape. But if Lin Ming were defeated he would have his body stolen away.

Xiao Moxian felt her heart tighten. She could only watch blankly on as Lin Ming struggled internally just a hundred feet away from her. There was nothing she could do at this moment as Lin Ming's will battled that of the Essence Spirit Embryo Stone; she didn't even dare to move his body.

“Just what is Lin Ming planning...” Xiao Moxian felt her palms become wet with sweat. No matter how strong Lin Ming's soul force was, how could he defeat the will of the Essence Spirit Embryo Stone that not even a World King could contend with?

Time seemed to come to a standstill. Lin Ming had turned into a statue, completely motionless as if he were frozen.

Xiao Moxian's speculations were correct. After billions of years of being bred over time, the Essence Spirit Embryo Stone developed an intelligence of its own, even under the seal of the Asura Road Master. It had now reached a point where it could seize the body of a Great World King.

At this time, within Lin Ming's spiritual sea, his complexion was cold as his transformed body of will floated high in the skies.

And in front of him, just several hundred feet away was a phantom formed from demonic power. Its body took the shape of a God Beast spirit. Its face was fierce and cruel and its entire being emanated dark energies.

This phantom of demonic power looked at Lin Ming and cackled.

"I... really... must thank you. Here... I have been sealed away... for countless years... today... I am finally born. From now on... this great world... is mine to roam... I will swallow all martial artists of the world... and achieve an unsurpassed true form!"

The phantom of demonic power chortled. Because it had never spoken before, its voice was extremely scratchy.

Lin Ming was startled as he heard this. It wasn't strange for the Essence Spirit Embryo Stone to have developed its own intelligence, but the words it spoke were strange. It had been locked in this array formation since the moment it was formed and had never experienced the outside world so there was no reason for it to speak the words it did.

The phantom of demonic power saw Lin Ming's confusion and smiled. "Through these countless years... innumerable people have died trying to enter the God Beast Tomb array formation... they were swallowed up by the array formation and their essence energy also became my nourishment. As for their minds, all of it

became mine!”

The phantom’s voice was filled with cruelty and malice. It seemed as if it were formed from numerous personalities. This phantom of demonic power had no personality of its own, but was instead an amalgamation of all the martial artists that it had swallowed up.

“I see, so that’s how it is. So you are the spiritual wisdom of the Essence Spirit Embryo Stone, a monster formed by swallowing the souls of countless others.” Lin Ming sneered as he finally understood.

“Hehe, you say that I am a monster. I have gathered into myself the minds of innumerable individuals... after billions of years of being formed, I have become a soul-devouring sacred spirit that surpasses the Laws. I am ever changing, ever evolving. I can swallow the will, soul, and essence energy of unlimited people, until the day I finally become the ruler of the universe! This is a situation that the man who laid down this array so many billions of years ago could never have imagined! He was far too conceited. By relying on his absolute cultivation he arranged this great array and even dared to create his own Heavenly Dao rules. He tried to arrange a destiny for his future successors, but how could he have calculated what would happen billions of years in the future? There is no foolproof plan in this world. My birth already far exceeds any plans he ever made. Now, I have already evolved into a perfect life form, able to swallow the wisdom of any being. I will create my own history, my own era! I will become a terrifying existence that all life in the 33 Heavens shall respect and fear!”

“You sure like to shamelessly boast.” A cold smile touched Lin Ming’s face.

The soul-swallowing sacred spirit chuckled in return. “I really don’t understand how you can smile even at the point of death. Are all humans as stupid as you are? Such a stupid soul... if your mortal body weren’t so formidable then I wouldn’t even bother

trying to swallow you.”

The corner of Lin Ming’s lips curved up in a taunting smile. He slowly raised his right hand, and on the top of his hand a black cube appeared, slowly revolving in his palm. This black cube was covered with patterns, filled with an ancient aura.

Chapter 1504 – The First Avatar

Seeing the black cube floating in Lin Ming's hand, the soul swallowing sacred spirit grinned. "Magic tool? How interesting, do you still plan on resisting me? I have swallowed the souls of countless martial artists and my will has already reached an inconceivable degree. I can even seize the body of a God Beast! You will become a part of me. Your mortal body isn't bad; it can become one of my avatars!"

The soul swallowing sacred spirit became increasingly fluent at speaking. Then, it roared out and rushed towards Lin Ming.

In the crazy impact, the soul swallowing sacred spirit transformed into a thick and viscous darkness, fusing into the surrounding space and causing countless swords of will to pierce towards Lin Ming.

Lin Ming sneered. "Really, the evils that we bring upon ourselves are the hardest to bear!"

The moment that the phantom of demonic power hurtled towards Lin Ming, a terrifying black vortex erupted forth with the small cube in Lin Ming's hand as the center. This dreadful vortex seemed as if it could swallow the entire universe!

All of the sacred spirit's swords of will were twisted apart by this black vortex, like rotten branches in a torrential storm.

The sacred spirit cried out in horror. This sudden situation had far surpassed anything it imagined possible. That horrifying cube in Lin Ming's hand emitted a terrifying aura. This aura was even somewhat comparable to the aura of the Asura Road Master from billions of years ago!

"Just what is that!?"

The sacred spirit screamed. It crazily struggled, wanting to flee from that black vortex, but the suction power of this black vortex

even surpassed that of a black hole; there was no way for the sacred spirit to resist!

“No! Stop, stop!”

As the sacred spirit saw that it would soon be twisted apart by this vortex, the soul swallowing sacred spirit howled out, “If you kill me then you will never obtain the Essence Spirit Embryo Stone. It has already been contaminated with the countless memories I have swallowed up, and if I do not gather those memories then at the moment you refine the Essence Spirit Embryo Stone, those memories will invade your soul and cause you to lose who you are!”

The sacred spirit wailed as it rapidly spoke with a sound transmission. As an abomination it had no personality to begin with, so it didn't fear losing itself. But a martial artist was different. When a martial artist lost who they were they would become an entirely different person. No one would wish for that to happen.

Facing this sacred spirit's threat, Lin Ming simply sneered. “You think too much of yourself. Now die!”

As Lin Ming spoke, the soul vortex in Lin Ming's hand became increasingly fierce. The spinning black energy was as sharp as a knife, tearing apart the sacred spirit's consciousness!

“You... will... re...gret...” The soul swallowing sacred spirit sent out a final curse. But at this time, it discovered that its own awareness was being drawn out and all of its memories and spirit marks were being erased by an invisible strength, completely purified into pure memories!

This sudden occurrence caused the soul swallowing sacred spirit to feel cold all over. To cancel spirit marks and also purify memories, was this even possible!?

This was its last thought. In the next moment, its awareness and

memories were completely wiped away, leaving behind nothing but endlessly pure soul fragments that were sucked in by the black cube in Lin Ming's hand.

After doing all of this, Lin Ming let out a light breath and rubbed his forehead.

That struggle just now had consumed an enormous amount of energy.

It had been many years, but he finally had the strength to activate the Magic Cube on his own!

Of course, the reason that the Magic Cube had such a terrifying effect just now was because the soul swallowing sacred spirit had invaded Lin Ming's spiritual sea and wanted to wrest away his body.

This was what he had meant when he said that the sacred spirit was bringing evils upon his own head. If the sacred spirit had withdrawn into the Essence Spirit Embryo Stone, then it would have been far more difficult for Lin Ming to deal with it using the Magic Cube.

"After diligently training with Empyrean Divine Mist for seven and a half years, my soul force is no longer comparable to how it was in the past. Otherwise, even with my extreme Divine Transformation cultivation it would still have been impossible for me to activate the Magic Cube. The Good Fortune Saint Son is at the late Saint Lord realm and he is already able to use the Grandmist Spirit Bead."

Lin Ming traced the patterns on the black cube, his mood extremely good.

According to Lin Ming's own speculations, his ability to use the Magic Cube was not comparable to how the Good Fortune Saint Son could use the Grandmist Spirit Bead. But as time passed, he would eventually catch up to him!

After exterminating the soul swallowing sacred spirit, there was no longer any obstacle to Lin Ming refining the Essence Spirit Embryo Stone.

As for those twisted soul fragments, they weren't very useful to Lin Ming. Most of them were soul fragments of Divine Lord, Holy Lords, and at most World Kings; it was already rare if they had even an incomplete transcendent divine might.

And to the current Lin Ming, only complete and peak transcendent divine might were worthy of him spending the time to cultivate them.

Lin Ming simply had too many peak transcendent divine mights right now. They included the inheritances of Empyrean Divine Dream, Empyrean Primordius, and Empyrean Divine Mist – three great Empyreans. Moreover, there was also the Heretical God Force of unknown origin; all of them were peak transcendent divine mights.

In addition, there was also the incomplete inheritance of Empyrean Divine Seal as well as the first volume of the Asura Sutra!

This was already more than enough for Lin Ming to practice for thousands of years.

Lin Ming's thoughts stirred and his consciousness returned to reality from his spiritual sea. Slowly, pure brightness was restored to his eyes and he saw Xiao Moxian standing not too far away from him.

Xiao Moxian's face was pale and her hands were gripped tightly together; she appeared extremely tense.

When Lin Ming's body was invaded by the sacred spirit, Xiao Moxian felt her own heart shrink within her. She feared that something would go wrong and when Lin Ming's eyes were restored to clarity, they would be flooded with a greedy, cruel, and

monstrous light.

In this dark and lonely Tragic Death Valley where killing intent was everywhere, she had lived with Lin Ming for nine years. To her, Lin Ming was already someone she subconsciously relied on. If his body were to be wrested away by others, then she found it hard to imagine what the consequences would be.

She would likely be hunted down by that soul swallowing sacred spirit and the exit to leaving Tragic Death Valley would also be blocked by it. Even if she were to successfully escape the sacred spirit with some great stroke of luck, when she imagined her future of having to live alone in Tragic Death Valley, facing the dark and arid days by herself and being the only one to watch over the endless skeletons here until her life faded away, she knew she would go insane.

“I’m fine. Sorry for making you worry about me.” In the dark and gloomy chamber, Lin Ming suddenly smiled. His smiling face was like the spring wind melting away the cold ice of winter. Xiao Moxian’s heart shook and her nose burned as she almost started to cry.

In a situation with nearly no hope, anyone would become vulnerable, let alone a young girl like Xiao Moxian.

She nearly couldn’t help but fly into Lin Ming’s arms. However, as she approached him, her pace picked up and she viciously punched him in the chest.

“I was such an idiot for worrying about you! You already had a strategy to deal with that thing!” Xiao Moxian said, feeling increasingly aggrieved. Her large eyes glistened, seeming as if tears would come tumbling down at any time.

The battle within Lin Ming’s spiritual sea had concluded extremely quickly, but a quarter hour had passed in the outside world.

To Xiao Moxian, this quarter hour seemed as long as a year.

Facing Xiao Moxian who was revealing the demeanor of a disgruntled young girl, Lin Ming didn't know what to say. He looked back at her a bit sheepishly for a moment. Luckily, Xiao Moxian had no intention of further pursuing this. She said, "Well, hurry up and refine the Essence Spirit Embryo Stone."

"Of course."

Lin Ming nodded. He glanced back at the Essence Spirit Embryo Stone. At this time, the Essence Spirit Embryo Stone had been completely unsealed and its consciousness had been erased. Now, it was a pure flesh and blood body, one containing the essence and strength of several hundred God Beasts. The foundation of its mortal body had already reached an unimaginable level.

This was the perfect avatar body described in the Asura Sutra!

The so-called perfect avatar body meant a complete body that was perfect, without any loopholes or weaknesses. Ordinarily, when a martial artist was fighting or meditating, the power of blood vitality within themselves would slowly flow out from them. But a perfect body would be completely sealed up, forming an independent world within the body. Inside and outside were two completely separate spaces!

Lin Ming quietly revolved the Divine Mist Heart Mantra he had learned from Empyrean Divine Mist for seven years. He branched out a part of his own divine soul and poured it into the Essence Spirit Embryo Stone.

By separating a part of his own divine soul, this would cause Lin Ming's soul force to weaken by a great deal. But, the advantage of this was that the Essence Spirit Embryo Stone would be forever under his control. It would become his absolute avatar, never being able to form the self-awareness required to betray him.

Lin Ming's soul force poured into the Essence Spirit Embryo

Stone like a gushing river, flooding into every nook and cranny of it. With a cracking sound, the Essence Spirit Embryo Stone became increasingly small as more and more stone chips started to fall off!

Lin Ming used the soul fraction he placed in the Essence Spirit Embryo Stone to control its flesh and blood. He began to revolve the astral essence contained within the Essence Spirit Embryo Stone. In that moment, an incomparably vast and wild torrent of blood vitality rushed out, submerging Lin Ming's divine soul!

“What a terrifying strength!”

Lin Ming was shocked. The power of blood vitality within this Essence Spirit Embryo Stone was too strong. If his soul wasn't firm then it would have been dashed into pieces!

With a cracking sound, the divine stone completely shattered. Fragments of divine stone shot out all over and the Essence Spirit Embryo Stone leapt out from the remains!

At this time it was still a mass of moving flesh. Its facial features were blurry and it was impossible to see its true appearance.

Lin Ming's thoughts stirred. He discovered that the Essence Spirit Embryo Stone had the seals of the Asura Road Master within it, seals that contained all the horrifying power that the Essence Spirit Embryo Stone had absorbed from the God Beast array formation for the last several dozens of billions of years.

There were a total of three seals, each one more durable than the last. With Lin Ming's current strength it was impossible for him to unravel them all. However, he had the strength to undo the first two.

Lin Ming hesitated for a moment. Then, he decided to undo the first seal.

With his understanding of the Asura Sutra, doing this wasn't difficult at all.

As the seal was undone, there was a thunderous explosion, as if

countless God Beasts were roaring from within the Spirit Essence Embryo Stone!

A rich blood vitality and heaven and earth origin energy erupted like a natural disaster.

There was no place for this strength to rush through. Once this strength flooded each and every inch of the avatar's flesh and blood body, it hurtled towards Lin Ming's true self!

The Essence Spirit Embryo Stone had now become Lin Ming's avatar. And, the avatar's cultivation also followed that of the true form. The avatar and true form could freely exchange energy between themselves!

Chapter 1505 – Becoming A Divine Lord

Bang!

Lin Ming's body shook. In that moment, a terrifying power rushed into his body. This was the power condensed by the God Beast array formation, and now it was pouring into his body, breaking into his inner world!

Lin Ming had already foreseen this change when he unraveled the seal, but he didn't expect the impact to be so wild and intense. His inner world seemed as if it couldn't withstand this strength and wanted to crack apart!

If his inner world cracked open then his fate could be imagined. In this life or death moment, Lin Ming had an obvious choice; he could open his inner world and let this tyrannical strength gallop outwards. In doing so, although it would make things safe for him, it would actually waste away a large amount of essence energy that the God Beast array formation had accumulated.

A sharp light blew up in Lin Ming's eyes. He didn't open his inner world. Instead, he relied on this ferocious strength to begin rapidly increasing the boundaries of his inner world! He wanted to take advantage of this opportunity and break into the Divine Lord realm!

This was a crazy decision. Underneath the torrents of so much wild energy, if he couldn't withstand the pressure of this energy then his inner world would develop cracks all over it and it would be nearly impossible to recover from. The reason Lin Ming dared to do this was because he had absolute confidence in his own foundation as well as the intensity of his body!

As energy filled him, Lin Ming's body emitted explosive crackling sounds. The blood vessels under his skin ballooned upwards, making it seem as if they would all collapse at any moment.

In the Nine Divine Shifts, the Divine Lord realm was the last boundary. Divine Lord, Divine Lord, the meaning of that was to truly become divine! Of course, this 'divine' was relative to common mortals. A Divine Lord martial artist could hold a world within their body and enjoy the worship of mortals. To mortals, they would be a god. As for the True Divinity boundary in the road of martial arts, this was a divine god of martial artists. A True Divinity powerhouse could control an entire universe. To them, the title of True Divinity was well deserved!

An ordinary Divine Lord powerhouse could already create their own clan or establish their own eighth-grade sect. They could create an inheritance that lasted for hundreds of thousands of years, become an ancient ancestor, and enjoy the devotion of countless disciples and followers.

In the Divine Realm, a Divine Transformation martial artist could already wander the world. A Divine Lord realm martial artist was a true character.

As for Lin Ming, once he became a Divine Lord he could instantly kill a Holy Lord. To a certain degree, he could even contend with a World King!

In the entire Divine Realm, besides in Empyrean Heavenly Palaces, World Kings were extremely rare even in a great world. They were figures that countless martial artists respected and revered. There were many peak Holy Lands that had inheritances of millions of years and yet they couldn't produce even a single World King!

Thus, to Lin Ming, the Divine Lord threshold was extremely significant!

However, for Lin Ming to break through the Divine Lord realm in this situation, the pain he had to withstand could be imagined.

Underneath the tremendous pressure, Lin Ming's blood vessels ballooned up from beneath his skin, even breaking apart. Blood

seeped out from all of his pores! This blood mixed with his sweat, making Lin Ming look as if he were being bathed in blood.

And within Lin Ming's inner world, the crazy energy impacted towards him, strong enough to cause mountains and rivers to shake. His inner world was originally filled with spiritual energy, but now it was filled with a terrifying energy storm. Those spiritual plants within his inner world were smashed apart in this storm, turned into innumerable fragments!

In his inner world, rivers changed course, lakes evaporated, and mountains collapsed!

In his inner world, it seemed as if the end of times had arrived.

“Heretical God Tree!”

Lin Ming roared out. Within his inner world, the towering Heretical God Tree stretched out its lush branches and vibrant leaves, stabilizing it.

The massive root system held the earth of Lin Ming's inner world firmly in place. With this divine tree stabilizing Lin Ming's inner world, everything became much more stable. However, a powerful pressure caused Lin Ming's body to balloon; the blood vitality within him seemed as if it would burst out in the next moment.

Lin Ming grit his teeth and opened the Eight Inner Hidden Gates to the limit. With the dual support of his formidable mortal body and the Heretical God Tree, he forcefully withstood the impact of energy. Then, with a ‘ka ka ka’ sound, the boundaries of Lin Ming's inner world began to break open!

As the boundaries of Lin Ming's inner world opened, the void outside of the world was constantly fused with pure energy. Lin Ming's inner world was growing, evolving!

Once his inner world opened up there would be an avenue for the energy to drain out of. The pressure on Lin Ming began to rapidly reduce.

Slowly, the bulging blood vessels beneath Lin Ming's skin began to shrink back down. Blood also stopped leaking from his pores. Like this, Lin Ming had crossed the most difficult stage. Following this, breaking through the Divine Lord realm was only a matter of time.

However, because Lin Ming had withstood the terrifying pressure, nearly all of his blood vessels had burst open and even his inner world had been wrecked in the baptism of that ruinous energy storm. In addition to him having branched out a proportion of his divine soul into his essence energy avatar, he would be greatly weakened for a long period of time.

“Lin Ming, you're really too reckless, you always do things to the extreme. Anyone that follows you will have a permanent heart attack.” Xiao Moxian had been watching Lin Ming's entire breakthrough process from the side. She was left somewhat speechless by everything.

From entering God Burying Ridge then falling into Tragic Death Valley, the two of them had survived demonic tides together and had even rushed into the God Beast Tomb array formation. After that, Lin Ming had risked his soul to refine the essence energy avatar. He was always making her heart race without end.

Lin Ming's lips twitched and he laughed. “I still haven't yet reached 60 years of age. From the time I was 15 years old, I've spent the following 40 years of my life struggling like this. I cannot compare to someone like you who comes from an Empyrean background. From birth you possessed an unachievable talent that mortals could only dream of as well as the support of endless precious resources. I am simply a martial artist that came from the lower realms, moreover I am even a martial artist that originates from the most common stock of mortals. Although I encountered my own lucky chance in the lower realms that changed my fate, relying on that alone would not have been able to make up the difference between us. I had to risk everything I had. I had to risk

my life on lucky chances and even risk my life to step further on the road of martial arts, otherwise it would have been impossible for you to see me standing here.”

Because of his exhaustion, Lin Ming’s words seemed a bit faint, as if they were lacking energy. But as these words fell onto Xiao Moxian’s ears, they caused her heart to shake.

In truth, she had already heard that Lin Ming came from a common mortal birth. He wasn’t someone who was taken in by an Empyrean level character as a disciple, but he still managed to attain his current incredible achievements.

This sounded like a fantastical bedtime story, and even Xiao Moxian had been skeptical of it, half-doubting it the entire time. Now, she had confirmed this from Lin Ming himself. Not only was he a common person, but he was even a common person of the lower realms. Within the entire Divine Realm as well as the billion plus worlds of the lower realms, there were countless common mortals, but their lives only lasted for a mere several dozen years. They were truly like ants, continuing generation after generation. For a common mortal of the lower realms to arrive at Lin Ming’s current level and have his achievements, this was simply unbelievable!

In comparison, Xiao Moxian herself came from Demondawn Heavenly Palace and was the most beloved daughter of the monster race and demon race. Disregarding her resources and inheritances, she possessed a rare half-phoenix body, something that might not even occur in a billion years. Yet, for all that she had, her present achievements were no better than Lin Ming’s.

This caused Xiao Moxian to feel a bit ashamed of herself. How could anyone live in the presence of such a freakish genius?

Chapter 1506 – Leaving the Valley

10 days later, within the God Beast Tomb, before Empyrean Divine Mist's cave dwelling –

At this time, Lin Ming was already fully restored. His cultivation had reached large success and he had learned the Asura Sutra First Volume. For the current him, entering and leaving the God Beast Tomb array formation was easy and simple.

“Senior Divine Mist, junior has returned. I apologize for having you wait a long time for me.”

Lin Ming said. Since he left, he had been gone for a year and a half. To the current Empyrean Divine Mist whose lifespan was near its end, this was an extremely long period of time.

In the cave dwelling, Empyrean Divine Mist was left speechless for a long time. Lin Ming could feel a weak divine sense spreading over his body, probing the changes in his body and cultivation that occurred in the last year and a half.

This divine sense belonged to Empyrean Divine Mist.

Since Empyrean Divine Mist had taught Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian his life's soul arts, his situation became increasingly worse. He weakened by the day, and if this speed were to continue then it wouldn't be too many years before he was like a lamp without oil, drying up and dying.

For the current Empyrean Divine Mist, a martial artist at a relatively ordinary boundary could kill him.

“Praise the young, I really must praise the young...” Empyrean Divine Mist deeply sighed with emotion. This God Beast Tomb array formation that had been unbroken by others for numerous billions of years was actually solved by Lin Ming.

“Your cultivation has already reached the Divine Lord realm... before, you told me that you have yet to cultivate for sixty full

years. For you to break through the Divine Lord realm at this age and also to have such a solid foundation... your future achievements are hard to imagine. For me to pass on my life's Divine Mist Heart Mantra to you before I die, I can at least die peacefully."

Lin Ming was silent for a moment. He said, "Senior is too fatalistic. This junior has already found the exit and can lead Senior to leave this valley. Senior's life is not yet over; it's only that your soul force and blood vitality is lacking right now, but as long as there are enough soul medicines then it will not be a problem for Senior to continue living for millions of years."

Lin Ming held a deep sense of gratitude towards Empyrean Divine Mist. The reason that Empyrean Divine Mist had weakened so much in these nine years was that he had used a secret skill to temper Lin Ming's divine soul. No matter what the original reason was for Empyrean Divine Mist helping him, this was a great graciousness to Lin Ming. Lin Ming would never forget this graciousness in his life.

"It's useless. I am well aware of my own situation. I should have around a mere hundred years of life remaining..." Empyrean Divine Mist sighed, his voice filled with gloom.

Lin Ming said, "Senior, as long as you leave the valley then I can help Senior seek out soul nourishing medicines. As long as there is medicine, then although Senior cannot be restored to your peak strength in the past, with a hundred years of training, stepping back into the Great World King boundary shouldn't be a problem at all. Moreover, Senior is an Empyrean and there should be the influence that you established in the past. If junior leads you to that influence then they can help Senior find soul medicines. There shouldn't be a problem at all!"

During these years that Lin Ming studied the Divine Mist Heart Mantra, he gained a deep understanding into the cultivation system and physical state of the spiritus. In his opinion, Empyrean

Divine Mist's situation absolutely wasn't as bad as he thought.

It was just that he had consumed too much energy and had been stranded in this forsaken land for tens of millions of years, suffering in this suffocating environment and slowly being overwhelmed with despair. Not just that, but at the end he had even passed on his secret techniques to himself and Xiao Moxian, thus the reason why Empyrean Divine Mist was the way he was now. As long as they all left here, then with the tough vitality of an Empyrean, Empyrean Divine Mist could definitely slowly restore himself.

Empyrean Divine Mist shook his head and said some words that surprised Lin Ming. "I will not leave."

"Why!?" Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian were both shocked. In this hellish land, facing endless nights of darkness, facing the limitless loneliness and countless skeletons, how could anyone endure that? If Xiao Moxian were to stay in this land for just a year on her own she would want to go insane, and yet Empyrean Divine Mist didn't want to leave? This was as if Empyrean Divine Mist simply didn't want to continue living on and wanted to cut off his life. In Xiao Moxian's opinion, even if one knew they would die, it was better to die outside in a proper grave than to be buried here!

"Senior, is your mind alright? Why would you choose a dead end and live out the rest of your life in this lonely place?" Xiao Moxian couldn't help but ask. As she thought of a top character of his generation, a peak Empyrean who commanded the winds and seas, passing away in this miserable hell hole filled with countless corpses and without anyone to bury him, she felt extremely uncomfortable in her heart.

Empyrean Divine Mist faintly smiled. "There is no need for you to feel sorry for me. In my life, I once enjoyed limitless glory and killed people as if I were cutting wheat. For me to end up in such a state, that is the plan that fate has for me. Do you remember when told you why I entered Tragic Death Valley...?"

Empyrean Divine Mist's words caused Lin Ming's thoughts to race. Indeed, he had asked Empyrean Divine Mist this question nine years ago. "Senior said that it was because of enmity!"

"Yes... because of enmity. I have enmity with a person and that person has enmity with you. Between the two of us, we can resonate our souls and do not need a tracking mark to find each other. Regardless of how much space or time separates us, he will be able to find me. If I leave Tragic Death Valley, he will discover me. It isn't a problem for me to die, but you will likely be dragged into my mess."

"Soul resonance? Could it be that he was the one who forced Senior into Tragic Death Valley?" Lin Ming asked, bewildered. Xiao Moxian also found this hard to accept. She asked with amazement in her voice. "Senior was an extreme Empyrean, just who could force you into Tragic Death Valley?"

"True Divinity..." Empyrean Divine Mist's voice became thin and ghostly. He sighed, "The one hunting me down is a Soul Emperor of my soul race, as well as my blood brother."

"Soul Emperor!"

Lin Ming's pupils shrank. This was a top level character equivalent to the Good Fortune Saint Sovereign!

This was an absolutely genuine True Divinity. Moreover, he had the ability to command his entire race. If Empyrean Divine Mist were being hunted by this sort of character, being forced into Tragic Death Valley was also reasonable!

Empyrean Divine Mist continued to say, "Because us brothers can sense each other's souls, I was forced onto a road of no return. I desperately thought to enter Tragic Death Valley, setting myself in a death trap and using that to seek a path of survival. Unfortunately, I was not the successor that the Asura Road Master chose and thus I wasn't able to obtain the inheritance of Tragic Death Valley. Instead, I exhausted my life here!"

“Since he is your blood brother why would the Soul Emperor wish to kill Senior?” Xiao Moxian asked, finding this incomprehensible. However, Empyrean Divine Mist did not answer this question.

Empyrean Divine Mist fell into a deep silence. Lin Ming knew that Empyrean Divine Mist didn’t want to speak about this subject; this was the pain that forever haunted his heart.

In the world of martial artists, there were far too many sad and tragic stories.

Because of the Soul Emperor’s existence, it was impossible for Empyrean Divine Mist to leave the valley. If he were to leave he would immediately die and the fate he would suffer might even be worse than his current situation. As Lin Ming thought of this, he quietly said, “Senior, although you cannot leave the valley, I will be sure to return within ten years. I will bring you back soul restoring medicines! Senior gave junior the graciousness of bestowing upon me your inheritance and I will definitely return this. Only doing that will be the bare minimum to suit my heart of martial arts.”

As Lin Ming spoke, he examined the array formations around Empyrean Divine Mist’s cave dwelling. These array formations were laid down by Empyrean Divine Mist in the past to resist the tides of demonic power. Currently, it appeared that these array formations could still last for some time.

“Let’s go, we’re leaving the valley!”

Lin Ming looked towards Xiao Moxian. Xiao Moxian glanced back at Empyrean Divine Mist, finding it hard to bear leaving him here. Then, she nodded.

Like this, the two of them left Empyrean Divine Mist and entered the God Beast Tomb array formation once more. Now that Xiao Moxian had cultivated the Asura Sutra First Volume, she also had the ability to break through the God Beast Tomb array formation.

The two of them used several hours to return to the ancient bronze temple. There, the portal remained, slowly spinning in place.

“Let’s leave.”

Lin Ming grabbed Xiao Moxian’s hand and decisively stepped into the transmission array.

After nine years, they were about to leave this place.

Cha - !

A light flashed and Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian felt their environment rapidly change. In the next moment, they saw that they had arrived in a green and lush forest.

There were fields of flowers with fresh life everywhere. Lingzhi and spirit herbs were all around, green and beautiful, making it seem as if this was a paradise. In God Burying Ridge, there were lands of life and lands of death. This was one of the rare areas which lacked fatal dangers.

Lin Ming turned around and saw that not too far away was a red mountain range that rose to a terrifyingly high degree. The main body of this red mountain range winded its way through, spanning across the entire God Burying Ridge like a vast red dragon. The many mountain peaks resembled dragon claws and dragon horns, extremely lifelike. Without a doubt, this was the Red Dragon Mountain Range and the entrance to Tragic Death Valley was the maw of this red dragon.

They had truly come out! Moreover, they weren’t too far away from Tragic Death Valley.

After confirming this point, Xiao Moxian didn’t know what she was feeling in her heart. She thought that she would have to stay in that dark and dreary Tragic Death Valley for hundreds of years, thousands of years, or even for the rest of her life. Now, she had weathered that disaster and had returned to the outside world, so

how could she not be excited?

She couldn't help but pick up a spirit flower and inhale a deep breath of its scent. This sort of long lost fragrance moved her heart and caused her eyes to be slightly wet. In Tragic Death Valley, she had to face endless piles of bones that left the scent of decay and rot all over her. Just when had she been able to experience the fragrance of such flowers?

Only by experiencing despair could one understand the value of life! At this time, even a green leaf, even a falling flower petal, could fill a person's heart with joy and hope!

“Wonderful...”

Xiao Moxian closed her eyes, intoxicated and in love with the abundant and fragrant spring scenery all around her.

However, Lin Ming was quiet this entire time, as if he didn't see the beautiful scene around him. He closed his eyes, casting out his sense.

“Lin Ming, what are you doing?” Xiao Moxian felt her heart go cold as she saw Lin Ming. She raised her guard and carefully sensed everything around her. Then, she discovered that an invisible strength had locked onto them.

Lin Ming thought for a moment. “Did you also feel that? This is one of the few life zones in God Burying Ridge so there shouldn't be any dangers here. But, there is actually something monitoring us. If I'm not wrong then this area already has an array formation placed around it, and the person who arranged it was likely Tian Mingzi...”

As Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian were speaking, several hundred miles away, in a mountain valley of shattered stone, several people were meditating.

At this time, a handsome black-clothed man with a youthful appearance suddenly opened his eyes. His eyes were like two blood

moons, bright and red.

“They really... came out?” The young man licked his lips, a devilish smile touch his face. This young man was Tian Mingzi.

Chapter 1507 – Lure the Enemy

Around Tian Mingzi, three martial artists stood up. These three were Imperial Prince Naqi's subordinates and had half-step World King cultivations.

Besides them, there were also two other people sitting; they were the Spider Brothers, the God Burying Ridge guides who had led them here.

The Spider Brothers were currently in the employment of Imperial Prince Naqi and were standing guard here for Lin Ming. In their opinion this was a pointless endeavor, but the rewards that Imperial Prince Naqi gave them were extremely rich so they didn't mind doing boring work like this.

“Sage Tian Mingzi, who did you say came out?”

The Spider Brothers casually asked. This crushed stone mountain valley was a life zone they had chosen based on their previous experiences and there shouldn't be any dangers here. Thus, they weren't too alarmed at hearing Tian Mingzi's words.

“I am speaking of Lin Ming. He has emerged from Tragic Death Valley.”

As Tian Mingzi spoke, a thick killing intent shined in his eyes. He extracted a black sword from his spatial ring. Underneath the dim light of God Burying Ridge, it shined with a cold sheen.

Upon hearing this, the Spider Brothers nearly jumped out from where they were sitting. “Lin Ming? The Lin Ming that you said entered Tragic Death Valley? He came out? Are you joking with us?”

Tian Mingzi clearly didn't want to answer such inane questions. “Do you think that someone like me decided to wait here for ten months just to relax?”

In Tian Mingzi's opinion, someone like Lin Ming with such a

massive destiny upon his body wouldn't easily die. Now, he had confirmed his initial suspicions!

The Spider Brothers found this hard to accept. "Are you sure that he really entered Tragic Death Valley?"

"I saw it myself!" Tian Mingzi coldly responded. With that, he flew up and soared towards the direction where Lin Ming was!

Behind Tian Mingzi, Naqi's three subordinates glanced at each other before crumbling up a sound transmission jade slip to send this astonishing news to their master.

Lin Ming had been in Tragic Death Valley for nine years but only ten months had passed outside. Imperial Prince Naqi naturally couldn't wait outside for Lin Ming to appear in the surroundings of Tragic Death Valley, if ever. He needed to make the best use of his time and adventure as much as possible, thus he and his retinue had parted ways with Tian Mingzi.

Seeing the brilliant flash of the jade slip sound transmission with their own eyes, the Spider Brothers felt this was all unbelievable. Naqi's three lackeys began preparing to leave. They looked at the Spider Brothers and said, "You two need to hurry!"

The Spider Brothers were still in a stunned shock, but the sudden shout of the three people seemed to wake them up from their dream.

"This is impossible..."

The Spider Brothers whispered. At this time, Naqi's three lackeys also soared up into the air, leaving the two Spider Brothers behind. The two Spider Brothers prepared to leave. They found it hard to imagine that Tragic Death Valley, the legendary land of doom that no one had ever emerged from in 10 billion years, had been broken today by a little baby boy.

At this time, a thousand miles away, a flame lit up in front of Naqi. This was the light of the sound transmission jade slip.

After listening to the sound transmission, Naqi's complexion turned gloomy. "The incoming message says that the array formation Tian Mingzi laid down has detected Lin Ming's trail. He has emerged from Tragic Death Valley!"

"What!?"

Besides Naqi, Mister Zhou was panic-stricken. "That boy, he really came out!?"

In these last ten months, Mister Zhou became increasingly aware as to how terrifying Tragic Death Valley really was. He had looked up some past texts and had confirmed that the rumors of Emphyreans perishing in Tragic Death Valley long ago were true. Even Emphyreans couldn't leave Tragic Death Valley and yet Lin Ming was able to; this was simply incredible.

"Whether or not he really entered Tragic Death Valley and then left, or if he used some concealment technique and didn't really enter, at this time, we cannot let him run away!"

Imperial Prince Naqi clenched his right fist as if he were squeezing Lin Ming in his palm. Naqi could feel a growing threat from Lin Ming. Originally, Lin Ming's hundred year challenge towards the Good Fortune Saint Son had been a joke to scoff at, but now, he could faintly feel that if Lin Ming were given a hundred years to grow, he would reach an unimaginable boundary!

At that time, he would surely become a great threat to the saint race.

As for himself, he definitely would not be Lin Ming's match.

"Imperial Prince Your Highness, we must be careful. We do not know what sort of lucky chance he obtained after entering Tragic Death Valley. If we misjudge his strength then we might meet with unexpected failure.

Mister Zhou said, thinking it absurd himself that he would say such words. As a World King powerhouse, he actually dreaded a

Divine Transformation realm martial artist. If this were known, he would be the greatest laughing stock in the world.

“I know. But, no matter how heaven-defying his lucky chance is it still won’t change the disparities in cultivation. He was three great boundaries lower than us to begin with. I don’t believe that he can overcome this, no matter what he does. Now that he’s left Tragic Death Valley we must kill him no matter what the cost is, otherwise if he escapes then it will be far more difficult to hunt him down in the future!”

Imperial Prince Naqi shot up into the sky, soon followed by Mister Zhou and the others!

As for Tian Mingzi, he was already flying towards the mountain valley where Lin Ming was. To him, this several hundred mile distance took nothing but the blink of an eye.

Here, Lin Ming was already waiting with his arms crossed behind his back. Floating behind him was Primordius Heavenly Palace!

Xiao Moxian had already retreated into Primordius Heavenly Palace.

Lin Ming sneered as he saw Tian Mingzi. “Your patience has not disappointed me. I’m glad you waited this long.”

As Tian Mingzi saw Lin Ming, his eyes suddenly widened, inexplicably shocked. In his caution, he hadn’t missed a key change that had occurred to Lin Ming.

That was... Lin Ming’s cultivation had reached the Divine Lord realm!

“The Divine Lord realm! How is that possible!? In just ten months you broke through from the late Divine Transformation realm to the Divine Lord realm!?”

Tian Mingzi knew that when Lin Ming entered Tragic Death Valley, he hadn’t stepped into the late Divine Transformation too long ago. In any case, it was impossible for a late Divine

Transformation realm martial artist to step into the Divine Lord realm so quickly. For a normal martial artist, they often needed a thousand years to break through to the Divine Lord realm from the Divine Transformation realm. Some needed ten thousand years to cross this hurdle, and there were even those that never managed to surpass it in their lifetime. No matter how talented Lin Ming was, using even 20 years would have been considered a heaven-defying level of skill.

But now, he had only used ten months!

This was even more panicking than Lin Ming emerging from that death trap known as Tragic Death Valley!

“You must have eaten some heavenly material!”

Tian Mingzi’s eyebrows shot up. He would never have imagined that there was a unique time enchantment in Tragic Death Valley that allowed a martial artist to cultivate in a completely normal state. The only explanation he could come up with for this change was that Lin Ming had encountered some unrivalled lucky chance in Tragic Death Valley and had eaten some heavenly material to allow him to complete this transformation. But, no matter how good a heavenly material was, it still wasn’t one’s own cultivation that they trained themselves. It would cause their foundation to be shaky. This was a rash and dangerous choice that geniuses normally wouldn’t consider!

“So, in order to deal with me hunting you down, you didn’t hesitate to eat up a heavenly material that would ruin your foundation in order to forcefully break into the Divine Lord realm?” Tian Mingzi’s eyes flashed as he stared at Lin Ming. “In order to survive you really are reckless, hm? But what a pity, it doesn’t matter even if you break through to the Divine Lord boundary, much less with such an unstable foundation. Even if you were to train for another ten years at the Divine Lord realm, you would still be nothing for me to deal with!”

Tian Mingzi sneered and stroked the front of his blade, his body bursting with flaming killing intent. “Aren’t you going to run back into your little turtle shell? Or do you plan on confronting me directly?”

“Hahaha!” Lin Ming bellowed out. “Trying to provoke me is useless. With your Great World King cultivation, you want to deal with a little junior like myself. You even diligently guarded this land for ten months and try to goad me into fighting you, it seems as if you are more desperate than I thought! It’s true, I cannot directly fight with you right now, but... do you have the courage to continue chasing me?”

As Lin Ming spoke he drew backwards, instantly sinking back into Primordius Heavenly Palace.

Primordius Heavenly Palace flew into the air! With a loud rumbling sound, violent sonic booms spread through the sky as rocks shattered below and the palace flew off into the distance!

At this time, Tian Mingzi didn’t immediately give chase. Lin Ming’s final words had caused him to grimace. He couldn’t help but admit that Lin Ming’s threat truly made him feel a degree of fear.

Tian Mingzi’s character was to be naturally suspicious of everything, and Lin Ming had deliberately put forth some sort of lure in front of him.

“This brat is a crafty one. If I chase after him I am likely to encounter some real dangers, but for me to not chase after him is impossible!” Tian Mingzi’s eyes sparkled with a cold light. However, he immediately grinned. “You have your tricks, but so do I. You have never understood the limits of my strength. If you presumed that I am an ordinary Great World King, then you are greatly mistaken!

“Today is my life’s greatest lucky chance. Once I kill you, all of your secrets, including the secrets of Tragic Death Valley, will

belong to me!”

Tian Mingzi’s eyes turned a deeper blood red. He grasped his sword and chased straight after Lin Ming.

Chapter 1508 – Chaos Prison

Deep within Primordius Heavenly Palace, Lin Ming was sitting in meditation in the main hall. He already felt a sense lock onto Primordius Heavenly Palace; Tian Mingzi had really given chase.

Moreover, Lin Ming expected that not only would it be Tian Mingzi, but Imperial Prince Naqi and his followed would soon join the hunt.

Lin Ming saw Imperial Prince Naqi and his group in Heavendevil City. They had a World King powerhouse in their ranks as well as two half-step World Kings. Once Tian Mingzi was added into this mix, he would have to face at least two World Kings and their subordinates.

“Lin Ming, what do you plan on doing?” Xiao Moxian glanced at Lin Ming. In her opinion, even though Lin Ming had broken through to the Divine Lord realm, it was still impossible for him to simultaneously contend with so many powerhouses. The difference between a Divine Lord and World King was simply far too great.

“I must lure them deeper. In God Burying Ridge there are seven death zones. I will choose the most dangerous one and wait for them there!”

As Lin Ming spoke, his eyes shimmered with a deep killing intent. He knew that whether it was Tian Mingzi or Imperial Prince Naqi, neither one of them would give up on chasing him down here. This was similar to Lin Ming not giving up on a lucky chance even if the situation was dangerous.

His advantage was that he understood the dao field of God Burying Ridge. With it, he could use the terrain to his benefit.

Xiao Moxian’s heart skipped a beat as she heard this. Although God Burying Ridge’s dao field was far less dangerous than Tragic

Death Valley's God Beast Tomb array formation, it was still extremely terrifying. In the legends, it was said that even Great World Kings perished here. If Lin Ming chose the most dangerous death zone of them all, then it was unknown just how brutal the battle would be.

“Do you plan on even killing Tian Mingzi?” Xiao Moxian gasped. Tian Mingzi's cultivation was simply far too different from their own. Lin Ming had just stepped into the Divine Lord realm. For him to kill the Great World King Tian Mingzi, this was an unimaginable feat.

Lin Ming said, “Tian Mingzi is an extremely deep and secretive individual. In the past when he was a direct disciple of the Verdant Feather Holy Lands, he came into contact with the saint race and became their spy. Finally, by relying on his own strength and plots he was able to undermine the entire Verdant Feather Holy Lands. Even the Great World King of the Verdant Feather Holy Lands was killed off by him. If I want to kill him, I have no assurance of being able to do that at all.”

According to Mo Eversnow, Tian Mingzi was a dreadfully talented individual, no worse than Mo Eversnow herself. If his plans hadn't been ruined at the Sky Spill Planet and he also lost a hand, then he would have become an Empyrean sooner or later. Moreover, Tian Mingzi had no background to speak of. He was nothing more than a common mortal martial artist. For him to arrive at this level with his talent and schemes was already astonishing enough.

Lin Ming would certainly fear such a ruthless character.

In truth, if it were possible, Lin Ming didn't want to toss himself into a life or death battle with Tian Mingzi right now. To face someone that he didn't know the full strength of and was also two and a half large boundaries higher in cultivation, this was a truly unwise decision.

However, if Lin Ming didn't face Tian Mingzi then his only choice was to hide away in Tragic Death Valley once more to seek out protection and then nothing would change. Tian Mingzi would keep guard outside Tragic Death Valley, and as for Lin Ming, he would have to go into seclusion there. In the dark and desolate land of Tragic Death Valley, it would be nearly impossible to make another breakthrough.

Lin Ming's cultivation in seclusion had already reached a bottleneck. He needed to continue tempering and sharpening himself through tribulations and battles in order to walk further down the road of martial arts.

Primordius Heavenly Palace shot forwards like a meteor. In a situation where he was speeding forth without any consideration for the massive amount of energy consumed, everything passed by in a flash. Soon, Lin Ming arrived at his destination. A hundred miles in front of him was a land of absolute darkness, a void of chaos.

This entire land was covered in black fog. In the midst of this swirling fog was a massive tear in the void. The tear revealed endless darkness, and this darkness seemed as if it led to a different time and space.

This was the most dangerous death zone of God Burying Ridge – Chaos Prison!

Here, time and space were incomparably chaotic, as mixed up and crazy as a labyrinth. If a Divine Lord or Holy Lord realm martial artist were to enter, they would instantly lose themselves in the chaotic space-time and be forever unable to leave.

Even for a World King powerhouse, once they entered deep into Chaos Prison, they would have to face the terrifying force fields and space-time storms within. They would have to consume a massive amount of energy, and if they couldn't escape in a short period of time then they would also die there.

“This place is...”

Seeing this black fog that emitted a horrifying aura, Xiao Moxian was startled. She knew that Lin Ming was about to fly into this land!

In these past years, Xiao Moxian had perceived the Asura Sutra First Volume and also had the basic ability to judge and determine the God Burying Ridge dao field. She could instantly see that this place which Lin Ming chose could be called the riskiest and most deadly place of the entire God Burying Ridge!

“This is Chaos Prison!” Lin Ming said without turning around. To the speeding Primordius Heavenly Palace, a hundred miles took nothing more than several blinks of an eye. Then, with an unstoppable momentum, Primordius Heavenly Palace broke into Chaos Prison like a comet crashing into the earth!

Xiao Moxian held her breath. She believed that Lin Ming could easily flit through Chaos Prison normally, but to do so when being chased by two World Kings, this was a true life or death struggle!

Even though Lin Ming was familiar with the God Burying Ridge dao field, the force fields and space storms in Chaos Prison were the same to everyone. If Lin Ming was sucked into one of them he would die like everyone else. Lin Ming’s one advantage here was that he could follow the dao field within Chaos Prison and avoid these fatal storms.

Ka ka ka!

As Primordius Heavenly Palace entered Chaos Prison, the entire structure shook. In the center of the array formation, three nine sun jades immediately shattered, turning into ash.

It was obvious that Primordius Heavenly Palace had just been struck by the force fields and storms here and consumed a massive amount of energy to defend itself!

Lin Ming said, “If we stay within Primordius Heavenly Palace

then there is no way for us to avoid the force fields and storms. We must leave this place. Enter my inner world and let me handle the rest.”

Lin Ming said without further explanation. He began to take back Primordius Heavenly Palace, and in the next moment he and Xiao Moxian were teleported outside.

This place was like a universe filled with a thick and sticky black space. There were wild storms everywhere and also terrifying raging currents of energy. Space and time was muddled and killing intent shot out in all directions. Many dangers were invisible and unable to be sensed. If one were to die here, there would be nothing left of their corpse.

As Lin Ming drew Tian Mingzi to this danger zone, in order to guarantee that he could be as flexible as possible, his only choice was to put away Primordius Heavenly Palace and place himself in the midst of absolute danger.

Xiao Moxian deeply stared at Lin Ming. There seemed to be many words she wanted to say reflected in her eyes, but she also knew that now was not the time to talk. She grit her teeth, stamped her feet and plunged into Lin Ming’s inner world.

Xiao Moxian was well aware that before breaking into the Divine Lord realm it would be impossible for her to assist Lin Ming in any way. If she carelessly interfered then she would instead drag him into harm’s way. Hiding out in his inner world was the best choice in the current situation.

This was also the same as handing her life over to him. If Lin Ming died, she would perish with him.

After several breaths of time, Tian Mingzi arrived outside Chaos Prison like ghosts and gods. He looked deeply at the terrifying void of fog beneath him, his complexion gloomy and uncertain.

“This boy, he wants to lure me inside!” Tian Mingzi knew that

this was a danger zone, however he had no choice but to enter!

“Could Lin Ming... have something he can rely on to survive in this danger zone?”

Tian Mingzi knew that there was a reason for Lin Ming leading him here. The most logical explanation was that this danger zone suited Lin Ming the most.

With a deep breath, Tian Mingzi revolved his protective true essence to the limit. In the next moment, he shot into Chaos Prison like a falling star.

When Tian Mingzi laid an array formation down outside of Tragic Death Valley, he had left a tracking mark in the array formation too. Afterwards, when Lin Ming stepped into the array formation, this tracking mark was naturally kept on his body.

This was one of the things that Tian Mingzi was relying on to hunt down Lin Ming. Otherwise, if he were to fly into Chaos Prison then it would be difficult to find him.

Arriving soon after Tian Mingzi was Imperial Prince Naqi and his group. Before they neared Chaos Prison, the God Burying Ridge guides, the Spider Brothers, quickly changed complexions.

“Stop! Stop! Slow down! We cannot go any further! That is a danger zone in front of us! Anyone who enters will die!”

The Spider Brothers anxiously cried out.

“Mm?” Imperial Prince Naqi frowned. He glared at the Spider Brothers, his vision fierce and swift.

At this time, the two brothers were paler than paper. They absolutely didn't want to take another step forwards.

“That is an extremely perilous land before us. In these years there has never been a God Burying Ridge guide who dared to fully enter. I fear that even if a World King powerhouse were to enter they would still suffer fatal dangers and be unable to leave!”

The Spider Brothers had no information about Chaos Prison. Of those that entered Chaos Prison, very few survived. Even for those surviving, they had no reason to share any information about such a danger zone with the Spider Brothers. But, just by surveying the surrounding environment and using their own intuition, they knew that this place couldn't be casually entered, otherwise they might suffer the fate of total annihilation.

“An extremely perilous land where even World Kings would perish?” As Imperial Prince Naqi looked at Chaos Prison, he cracked his knuckles, explosive sounds echoing out from them.

Chapter 1509 – Blue Throne Bai Qi

“This boy wants to lure us into a trap!”

Naqi’s vision was gloomy as he stopped his steps.

“Imperial Prince Your Highness, perhaps the Spider Brothers fear death and are intentionally exaggerating the dangers.” Naqi’s follower said with a true essence sound transmission.

Naqi pondered for a moment. Then, he said, “That Lin Ming is a lunatic. He really might be thinking to fight us to the death in that danger zone. If he dies, he thinks he can drag us down with him. I don’t know what he relying on, but what I can confirm is that he has a very deep understanding of God Burying Ridge and he also understands how to use the terrain to avoid disaster. For him to find this danger zone here shouldn’t be by accident!”

Although Naqi dreamt of killing Lin Ming, he still hadn’t lost his calm.

Mister Zhou said, “Your Highness is right. As long as we remain cautious we shouldn’t have any problems. Let me take the others ahead first and Your Highness can remain outside. We contacted Ash Murder a while ago and he should catch up to us any time now.”

Naqi hesitated for a moment, then, he looked towards Mister Zhou and said, “Mm, Old Zhou, remember to be careful. This Lin Ming has a tough life. Luckily, you had the foresight to contact Mister Ash Murder ahead of time. As long as he arrives then everything will be fine.”

Naqi looked towards Chaos Prison, not planning to enter and show off his strength. Even if the Spider Brothers were exaggerating, he wouldn’t recklessly enter a place like that. His strength was below Lin Ming’s to begin with, and within such a danger zone, the chance he would perish in there was too great.

“Me and some others will stay out here to wait for Mister Ash Murder. The rest of you enter to chase Lin Ming!”

Naqi ordered. As the Spider Brothers heard this they began to panic. “Chase Lin Ming? Imperial Prince, you are asking us to die!”

“Heh, if you don’t want to go in then you can die now. The choice is yours.” Naqi icily said. He hadn’t put forth such a high service fee for nothing.

The Spider Brothers blanched. They glanced at Mister Zhou, who had currents of astral essence flowing around him, and also glanced at the Chaos Prison which was exuding killing intent all over. As they did, their hearts surged with a deep sense of despair. What the Imperial Prince said was true. With Mister Zhou’s strength he could instantly kill the both of them. If they didn’t enter Chaos Prison now then they would die. There was simply no alternative for them.

Mister Zhou didn’t even give them the chance to hesitate. He reached out his hand and a terrifying strength covered the two Spider Brothers, holding them tight and dragging them along into Chaos Prison!

As soon as they entered Chaos Prison, the environment around them suddenly changed. As they entered that originally pitch black space tear, they saw that everything became a spiritual land rich with origin energy. Although there were no world treasures here, they could feel a heaven and earth origin energy so thick that it nearly substantialized. In the skies, dense origin energy clouds formed, as if it would rain down droplets of origin energy at any time.

A faint green aura covered the ancient land, as if some divine treasure was hidden here.

Within Chaos Prison, space and time were jumbled up. Although the entrance was the same, Lin Ming and Mister Zhou had ended up in completely different spaces.

Feeling the surrounding aura, Mister Zhou's eyes brightened. He could faintly feel that within this Chaos Prison, there existed some rare treasure!

As he turned around he saw that the entrance had already vanished. He was now trapped in a sealed off space and time. However, because he had just entered Chaos Prison, the hindrance of space and time here wasn't too intense so it wasn't yet able to block him.

He sent out a summary of his speculations to Imperial Prince Naqi in a sound transmission.

“Treasure?”

Imperial Prince Naqi's eyes brightened. There were many treasures in God Burying Ridge and Chaos Prison was known as a danger zone that even World Kings could die at. It would be normal if there was a shocking lucky chance there!

High risk also meant high rewards.

Imperial Prince Naqi clenched his fists, an excited color flashing in his eyes. If he could kill Lin Ming and obtain the treasures in Chaos Prison, then that would be a great lucky chance!

With such a lucky chance placed in front of him, how could he not be excited?

However, no matter how eager he was, he still didn't lose his calm. His guess was that Lin Ming had a certain understanding into Chaos Prison and the environment within, otherwise there was no way he would have placed himself in such a death zone. If Naqi followed him in without any reassurance, then with his cultivation not only would he not be able to help Mister Zhou but he might even become a burden to him. At that time, not only would he not obtain any treasures but, his life might be taken by Lin Ming.

As Imperial Prince Naqi thought of this, he suppressed the desire

for this lucky chance in his heart. An icy light glimmered in his eyes. “Lin Ming, you brought me to this place and even showed me such lucky chances, I must thank you for that. But do not think I am an idiot you can fool around with. Even a lion must use its full force to capture a rabbit. Although your cultivation hasn’t yet reached the Divine Lord realm, I will still gather the strongest force possible before killing you with everything I have!”

With two World Kings as well as Ash Murder who was rushing here, there were many masters hunting down the mere Divine Transformation realm Lin Ming. This could be called an absolute victory!

.....

At this time, in Chaos Prison, Lin Ming had already flown deep into the depths of this land. Here, he could feel a terrifying pressure. This pressure affected not only his body but also his soul. If a martial artist was lacking in cultivation then even flying would be difficult here.

Lin Ming silently revolved the Asura Sutra, using the Laws within to resist the pressure. He immediately felt much more relaxed.

The Asura Sutra was the inheritance of the Asura Road Master. In a sense, it could be called the Heavenly Dao Laws of the Asura Road itself. Lin Ming had only studied the general outline and first volume of the Asura Sutra. Although he couldn’t be said to possess the ability to control the Asura Road’s Heavenly Dao Laws, he at least understood how to follow them.

With the support of the Asura Sutra, the pressure on Lin Ming became less and less intense. Gradually, he managed to acclimate himself to this pressure and return to his normal flying speed.

This Chaos Prison was flooded with deep killing intent everywhere. But as long as Lin Ming was a bit more careful, he could freely move wherever he wished.

As he passed through a space crack, Lin Ming arrived in a strange hall he had never seen before.

“This place is...”

Lin Ming’s vision sharpened. At this time he could see a massive black altar in front of him. Around this altar were rows of sculptures. These sculptures were all carvings of martial artists from different races. They held wild and dangerous weapons in their hands and all wore the same patterned armor. Their bodies emitted a dense demonic power.

“It’s this demonic power again.”

Demonic power flooded all the inheritances of the Asura Road Master. Many of his cultivation methods were dominated by this demonic power, using it as their lead.

Lin Ming counted the sculptures; there were a total of 108 of them.

“108 iron-armored spectral soldiers... they seem to be guarding something.”

Lin Ming looked at the altar. He could faintly feel that there was a great power buried within the altar, as if some unrivaled powerhouse had suppressed a dreadful existence there.

Was the one who arranged this altar the Asura Road Master?

Lin Ming thought. He began to probe the altar’s array formation. Compared to the God Beast Tomb’s great array formation, this one was far inferior. Even if the Asura Road Master had arranged this, he should have done so casually. But even if he did so casually, it should still contain a horrifying power!

Lin Ming slowly advanced forwards. The ground was covered with lines and these lines were the same as God Burying Ridge. They were divided into paths of life and paths of death. If he stepped onto a path of death, he would activate a disastrous sequence of events.

Lin Ming made his way onto the altar. As he looked around, he could see dao patterns inscribed all over the altar floor. These dao patterns came from the same origin as the Asura Sutra. As Lin Ming looked around, he spotted several ancient words. What was written was – “Asura Road Master’s third generation disciple: Blue Throne Bai Qi.”

Blue Throne Bai Qi?

Lin Ming was startled. So the one who left behind these ancient words was the disciple of the Asura Road Master.

Blue Throne Bai Qi. Blue Throne should have been his title, and Bai Qi was his name. Throne might be the title of a position in the influence that the Asura Road Master established in the past, similar to an Elder, or it could be something else altogether.

This was another character who had existed billions of years ago. Now, he was likely dead.

Thinking of this, Lin Ming’s mind stirred. He carefully looked over the dao patterns on the altar. These dao patterns, in addition to the essential protective measures, also possessed soothing and calming properties.

After a martial artist died, if their body and soul were intact, if they were too powerful, and if they were also sealed in an enclosed space, then the force field of their body would not dissipate for an extremely long time. After tens of thousands of years, it was possible for this force field to evolve into ghosts and evil spirits. It was even possible for the martial artist’s corpse to rise up, gaining a certain sentience of its own.

But, if there were calming dao patterns carved onto the tomb, then this situation wouldn’t occur.

If so, then this altar was in fact a grave!

Lin Ming suddenly became aware. If he wasn’t wrong, then this was the grave of the Asura Road Master’s disciple, Blue Throne Bai

Qi!

It was even possible that each of the seven great death zones of the God Burying Ridge had a disciple of the Asura Road Master buried within it.

When these disciples of the Asura Road Master were nearing the end of their lifespan, they must have chosen to be interred in graves surrounding Tragic Death Valley, creating a seven star formation to stabilize and protect the potential of Tragic Death Valley with it in the center.

Perhaps this was their way of expressing their respect towards their master, or perhaps they were protecting something.

“God Burying Ridge, God Burying Ridge... so that’s how it is. I thought that this God Burying Ridge meant that even gods would be buried if they entered, but in truth I was mistaken. The original meaning of God Burying Ridge was that divine gods were buried here, and these divine gods were the disciples of the Asura Road Master.”

Lin Ming didn’t know what boundary the disciples of the Asura Road Master had reached. If he were to think they were True Divinities, that simply seemed far too exaggerated. After all, there was an extremely small number of True Divinities even within the entire 33 Layered Heavens.

However, calling them Empyreans was the bare minimum. They might have even been extreme Empyreans.

As Lin Ming was thinking, his mind stirred. He had already sent out his sense and had felt that some people were approaching.

“The ones hunting me down have finally arrived. They aren’t too slow, but I wonder just who came.” Lin Ming licked his lips, his eyes blazing with a brilliant fighting spirit!

He had waited for this battle for a long time!

During the nine years within Tragic Death Valley, Lin Ming had

spent most of that time in seclusion and hadn't fought a single battle. Now that he finally left Tragic Death Valley, he felt his blood boil over at the thought of the powerful opponents he had to face, as if he had suppressed the raging strength within himself for far too long and needed to erupt!

Chapter 1510 – Provoke

Bang!

A dreadful explosion burst out from the endless black void, accompanied by faint pained screams. In the next moment, a space crack opened and several wounded people were pushed through, in an extremely distressed and miserable state. They were part of Mister Zhou's group.

There were originally seven of them, but now only five were left; the other two had died.

The ones surviving were only Mister Zhou, a half-step World King martial artist, a late Divine Lord martial artist, and the two Spider Brothers.

Even in this Chaos Prison where killing intent was everywhere, the Spider Brothers' experience and intuition were able to be displayed to a great affect. It was the reason their group had managed to survive until now.

“What place is this?”

Mister Zhou looked at the magnificent ancient altar in front of him. They had just been in a chaotic space storm but in the next moment they had arrived within a grand hall; it could only be said that the space-time within Chaos Temple was far too chaotic.

Besides this ancient black stone altar, there were also 108 stone sculptures surrounding it. The altar was covered in dao patterns that exuded a deep killing intent, as if there was some incomparably powerful strength sealed within it.

“There is a treasure here!”

Mister Zhou's eyes brightened. The aura all around was definitely not because the origin energy here was too rich, but because there were some rare treasures sealed away here!

Mister Zhou didn't recognize these dao patterns that originated from the same source as the Asura Road Master's dao patterns, and thus he definitely didn't know that it was a grave. But, just based on his many years of experience he was able to conclude that there were some great treasures beneath the altar!

His judgment was not wrong. Whether or not Blue Throne Bai Qi's corpse was interred beneath the altar, there would definitely be a massive number of funeral objects buried with him. These funeral objects would hold an unparalleled attraction towards a World King powerhouse!

"Old Zhou, what do we do? Do we continue chasing after Lin Ming or should we dig up the treasures here?"

The half-step World King said from beside Mister Zhou, a bit of uncertainty in his voice. As they arrived here they had encountered many dangerous situations. Even though they saw a treasure in front of them they still didn't dare to recklessly act. No matter what it was, anything in Chaos Prison wouldn't be easy to take.

Mister Zhou thought for a moment. "We must chase after Lin Ming but we also cannot give up these treasures. It was said that God Burying Ridge is related to the Asura Road Master, so perhaps these treasures were left behind by him!"

Just what sort of character was the Asura Road Master? Let alone an ordinary World King like Mister Zhou, even an Empyrean powerhouse would greedily covet the Asura Road Master's treasures.

For all martial artists, if they didn't struggle for a lucky chance when it was placed in front of them, then they simply didn't need to cultivate the martial path.

And hearing Mister Zhou's words, the Spider Brothers grimaced, their complexions changing. In their eyes, this black stone altar was a danger zone amongst danger zones; they couldn't even run

in time, much less think of digging for treasures here!

“You... you...” The older Spider Brother gulped. “Do you know what place this is? Demonic power, black stone altar, and also 108 puppet guards, this is an absolute death zone. Once the great array formation is activated here then all of us will die!”

As the older Spider Brother spoke, his face paled and his lips shivered. He was well aware that even if they dug out some treasure here there would be no share for them. For them to come here was simply asking to die.

“I beg you to let us brothers go!”

The younger Spider Brother fervently begged. The deeper they ventured into Chaos Prison, the lower the chances that the two of them would emerge alive.

“What long-winded nagging!” Mister Zhou’s eyes turned cold. “If you continue babbling nonsense then I’ll kill you both here!”

Mister Zhou’s voice was filled with killing intent. At this moment, from beside Mister Zhou, the half-step World King said with a sound transmission, “Old Zhou, we should use these two as pathfinder stones. Let’s make them step on the altar floor first to see if there is any danger.”

As this point was suggested, Mister Zhou’s thoughts stirred. “Your suggestion is good, but now isn’t the time for that. We should wait for Mister Ash Murder to arrive here. His Highness the Imperial Prince has our tracking mark and with Mister Ash Murder’s strength they should definitely be able to find us even in this absolute death zone. When we’ve all gathered together then it won’t be too late to have these two cannon fodders explore the way for us.”

“Old Zhou, you’re right, haha! We should wait for Mister Ash Murder to arrive. Once he does, all of the treasures will be ours!”

The two martial artists beside Mister Zhou were elated. If the

Asura Road Master had buried treasures here, then although they couldn't eat the meat they could still have a bit of the soup. Perhaps they might even stumble into their own lucky chance here.

Like this, Mister Zhou and his group sat down and began to meditate. Hidden within the array formation, Lin Ming frowned. These people weren't foolish enough to rush into the array formation to dig for treasures, but instead seemed as if they were waiting for others.

Lin Ming noticed that their group was missing Imperial Prince Naqi and Tian Mingzi. His first thought was that they must be coming to reunite with Mister Zhou.

Lin Ming had Tian Mingzi's tracking mark on him. Even if he was hiding in this array formation, Tian Mingzi would still sense him. Lin Ming certainly wouldn't idly sit by and allow all of his enemies to gather together in one place.

"If you don't want to move into the array formation then I'll help you!"

Lin Min sneered. Like this, he emerged from the shadows of the array formation.

As he stepped out from the shadows of the array formation, his aura was no longer isolated by it. He was immediately sensed by Mister Zhou and his group.

Mister Zhou's eyes shot open!

"Who is it!?" He leapt up, his eyes focusing on Lin Ming. At this time, the light within the hall was extremely dim and Mister Zhou's eyes were like bolts of lightning in the dark skies, piercing through the layers of gloom to see Lin Ming.

"Lin Ming!? It's you!?"

Mister Zhou looked at Lin Ming with incredulity.

Lin Ming had actually appeared here and even presented himself in front of them! He simply didn't know the meaning of life or death!

Around Mister Zhou, everyone began taking out their weapons. Several senses locked tightly onto Lin Ming.

"You little beast, you are courting death!" The half-step World King saint said, a diabolic grin crossing his face. In his opinion, Lin Ming was simply a cunning brat, as slippery as a cockroach. Once someone grabbed onto Lin Ming, killing him would be extremely simple.

"I'll kill you in three moves!" The saint martial artist said, about to attack. However, Mister Zhou blocked him. "Don't be impulsive. This is a trap!"

Mister Zhou didn't believe that Lin Ming was an idiot. If he dared to appear in front of them even when he wasn't their match then he must have something he was relying on. The best explanation would be that there were traps here.

"Haha!" Lin Ming laughed. "Are you all so gutless? Weren't you chasing after me? Now the five of you are all standing there and each of you have a cultivation higher than mine, and yet you're too scared to attack me. You lot are nothing but little turtles, hahaha!"

Lin Ming loudly shouted. Mister Zhou and the two martial artists besides him immediately developed ugly complexions.

They had a World King and a half-step World King on their side, and yet they were being taunted by a junior like this.

"I must say, old man, what is your name again? When I was leaving Heavendevil City I ran into you. At that time, I was surrounded by you all and saw you riding some stupid-looking monster beast. Your eyes were closed shut and you were wildly waving your arms around like a dumb clown, mumbling crap like some ridiculous side street con artist. I must ask, what were you

doing at that time? Were you acting? Were you pretending to be a clown? If you were pretending to be a clown then good job, you even fooled me.”

Lin Ming said. The time he spoke of was when he followed Fatty Zhou to leave for God Burying Ridge. At that time, at the city gates, he had bumped Imperial Prince Naqi and his group. Mister Zhou had been using his Heaven Spying Art to seek out Lin Ming’s trail, but because Lin Ming was using the Bodily Rebirth Technique to conceal his appearance, Mister Zhou wasn’t able to discover him at all.

Now being mocked by Lin Ming like this, Mister Zhou was livid. Before this, he had openly bragged that as long as Lin Ming was within 50 miles of his Heaven Spying Technique, he could immediately find him through any appearance concealing technique. No matter how well hidden he was, he would still be able to grab Lin Ming. But now, Lin Ming was telling him that he had waltzed away from right in front of him and he hadn’t even noticed!

Everyone beside Mister Zhou looked at him. Indeed, Lin Ming’s description just now was truly the period when Mister Zhou was entering the city. In other words, Lin Ming had truly avoided them at the city gates. Mister Zhou, a World King powerhouse, had used his special secret technique and yet couldn’t sense a Divine Transformation youth. If this matter were to spread out then it would shame him to no end!

“You little beast, I’ll smash you in half!” Mister Zhou’s eyes flooded with an ominous light. He stepped forwards, nearly wanting to attack.

Lin Ming laughed out loud. “You think you can? I’m standing right here right now, and yet all you can do is talk? Do you have any guts at all? With so many World Kings and Divine Lords, all you can do is stand there and blabber on? In the future, sooner or later there will be a day when I kill my way into the saint race and

exterminate all of your people. Whether they are men or women, I will waste away their cultivation and make you all into slaves!”

Lin Ming was too arrogant. This simply wasn't the way he had acted in the past. Mister Zhou felt blue veins bulging out from his forehead. In his life, he had never been so aggrieved before. A junior that was several cultivation boundaries lower than him was actually cursing him to his face and yet he was completely helpless to do anything about it!

“I think you are all little turtles. I will give you all ten breaths of time. If you aren't going to do anything then I'm going to leave. I don't have the time or patience to chatter with you. You can either come over here, wash your necks and prepare to die, or you can hurry up and get the hell out of my way! Go return to your grandmother's home. If all of you are such cowards then why did you enter this place to try and join in on the fun? You shouldn't have bothered coming here to begin with!

“I'm going to start counting now. Ten... nine...”

Lin Ming became increasingly arrogant, just like a wastrel scumbag young master of a noble family, looking down at everyone as if they were worth nothing at all.

The more Lin Ming's current personality diverged from how he was in the past, the more suspicious Mister Zhou became and the less willing he was to move half a step forwards.

“This brat is too conceited! Old Zhou, I will go myself and kill him in three moves!” From beside Mister Zhou, the half-step World King powerhouse was nearly crazy with rage. In his eyes, humanity was nothing but a lowly race that only deserved to be slaves of the saints. But now, this human that he could kill as easily as turning his palm was insulting them to their faces. If he could tolerate this, what else could he tolerate?

Lin Ming laughed, continuing to count. “Eight... seven... six... I must say, you talk so much and yet you do nothing at all. If you

think you can kill me in three moves then I'll eliminate you in three moves instead! Perhaps I'll just trample you to death with one foot!"

Chapter 1511 – Absolute Killing Array

Mister Zhou's complexion became so dark and gloomy that it seemed water could be squeezed out of his face. His killing intent burst out with an unprecedented intensity, all of it falling onto Lin Ming!

However, Lin Ming remained unmoved. He carelessly said, "Three... two and a half... two... one and a half... hey, I've already counted to one and a half, aren't you guys going to come and die yet?"

Lin Ming was purposefully trying to anger them. As he spoke to here, he suddenly noticed that the Spider Brothers seemed to be wanting to sneak away. He laughed, saying, "Hey, you two Imp race turtles, where do you think you're running off to? You haven't even fought me yet, just how sad is that!"

The Spider Brothers felt that the situation was spiraling out of control. Once these people were provoked into doing something by Lin Ming, they would definitely be dragged into their deaths. They were thinking to quietly escape, but Lin Ming's words immediately caused them to freeze in place.

At this time they didn't have any thoughts of even trying to bother Lin Ming. Mister Zhou was like a powder keg ready to blow up at any moment. The slightest action that caused Mister Zhou to be unhappy could set him off, causing him to kill them both out of shame and anger!

However, Mister Zhou seemed as if he didn't care about the Spider Brothers at all. He continued to stare at Lin Ming, his eyes filled with killing intent.

"Hahaha, if you keep staring your eyeballs might pop out. Really, how boring of you. There are only two numbers left! One! Zero!" Lin Ming finished counting down from ten and then waved his hands, saying, "I'm not going to wait here for you; I'm leaving

first. If we have another chance then let's meet again in the future!”

Lin Ming turned with a flourish, swaggering away as he left.

This caused the two saint race martial artists beside Mister Zhou to become so angry that fires seemed to fan out from their eyes. “That brat, he must be faking things!”

Someone shouted.

The truth was that Mister Zhou was also suspecting this. This was possibly some play that Lin Ming was putting on to run away! If they watched helplessly as Lin Ming managed to escape like this then not only would this become the greatest shame of his life but he would also become the laughing stock of the entire saint race! He would even be punished by the rules of his people!

But to really run over and grab Lin Ming... he didn't have the courage to do so!

Thinking of this, Mister Zhou suddenly roared out loud. He reached out a hand and grasped towards the Spider Brothers!

The Spider Brothers weren't Mister Zhou's match at all. They cried out in fear as a golden hand made of astral essence grabbed them both!

“Ahhh!”

“Forgive us!”

The Spider Brothers shouted out with pale faces. However, Mister Zhou didn't care about their objections at all. He grabbed both of them and his muscles bulged out as he threw them towards Lin Ming with all his strength!

In that moment the Spider Brothers felt as if their bodies were being torn apart by a tremendous strength. The terrifying speed they were sent hurtling forwards at struck them like a bolt of thunder!

Mister Zhou himself was a body transformation martial artist. Once he erupted with all his strength, his steps could shatter the earth and his fists could sunder mountains and rivers. The Spider Brothers were tossed forwards like sand bags, so hard that even a tiny planet could be crushed! As for a Divine Lord realm martial artist, they would be smashed to death!

He wanted to use the Spider Brothers to smash Lin Ming to death. At the same time, he could also use them to investigate the mysteries of the black altar and see if this was a trap laid down by Lin Ming.

“Ahhhhhhhhhhhh!”

The Spider Brothers hurtled forth like a meteor. Their sad and miserable cries were torn apart by the tremendous currents of astral essence. Upon seeing this, Lin Ming’s arrogant smile immediately vanished, instead replaced by a cold killing intent. He sneered, “So you finally started to do something. Although you think you are just probing me with some cannon fodder, this killing array isn’t as simple as you think it is.”

Lin Ming used a true essence sound transmission to rapidly speak. Before he finished speaking, the black altar in front of him suddenly shook. Then, a hundred thousand rays of black divine light shot out from the altar, piercing through the void like divine swords!

The Spider Brothers were struck by these divine swords and were instantly split apart, turned into nothing but minced meat!

Peng!

At nearly the same time, an even thicker beam of black divine light struck the Spider Brothers, reducing their minced meat to ashes!

Finally, their corpses didn’t even remain atop the altar. This was Blue Throne Bai Qi’s grave, no one was allowed to blaspheme it!

“What?!”

Mister Zhou’s pupils contracted. The Spider Brothers being split apart and reduced to ash by the hundred thousand rays of divine light was horrifying, but also within his expectations. However, what shocked him the most was that when those black beams of divine light were randomly shooting about, he could see Lin Ming clearly standing atop the altar, not moving at all within the storm of black divine light. Even so, those black beams of divine light seemed to have eyes, all of them avoiding Lin Ming, not even touching the hem of his robes!

“He can control the great array formation here!?” Mister Zhou was panic-stricken as he thought of this. If this were true then that was truly dangerous!

“That’s not right! If he can control the array formation here then he should have been able to use it to directly attack me. There should have been no reason for him to provoke me into doing something. No, he shouldn’t be able to control the array formation but he should be able to see through it. The area where he is standing should be the life zone of this array formation where no divine lights are able to attack him!”

Mister Zhou instantly thought. This situation was slightly better. However, Lin Ming was already in an invincible position, it would be impossible for them to kill him!

“We’re withdrawing!”

Mister Zhou was decisive in his decision. Seeing that it was impossible to kill Lin Ming, he needed to convene with Mister Ash Murder and further consider the situation.

He believed that with Mister Ash Murder’s strength, combined with Tian Mingzi, they would have the ability to kill Lin Ming. After all, this Chaos Prison was only known as a danger zone where World Kings died. If one was strong enough they could still break through the array formation!

However, Lin Ming only laughed. “You still think you can run away now? It is too late! This is the tomb of Blue Throne Bai Qi! You want to walk away like nothing happened after disturbing Senior Bai Qi’s grave? Keep on dreaming!”

Lin Ming’s eyes were icy cold. At this time, the 108 sculptures around the altar began to shake. Their eyes opened, revealing sparkling red lights. These sculptures were actually alive!

Seeing this scene, Mister Zhou felt all the hairs on his body rise. These puppets were emitting a dreadful aura of demonic power; it was hard to imagine how strong they were!

To deal with several of these sculptures was manageable, but if he wanted to simultaneously face 108 of them together, he would be hacked apart in the onslaught of attacks!

Mister Zhou couldn’t bother with saving his subordinates. He turned around, wanting to flee alone. But as he turned, he saw something that left his entire body cold. The entrance to this hall, the narrow space crack that they had travelled through, had vanished!

The exit had been blocked!

“Damn it all!”

Although Mister Zhou had already guessed that this was an absolute killing zone, he didn’t think it would be dangerous to such a degree. He originally thought that the only danger in this hall was the altar and that it would have many traps hidden within it, thus the reason he had used the Spider Brothers to probe it. In the worst case situation the Spider Brothers would die a miserable death and the rest of them could safely retreat. However, he didn’t expect that just probing the altar would trigger the absolute killing array here!

“Break for me!”

Mister Zhou punched his fist against the sealed space barrier,

wanting to shatter through the void and escape. However, the space barrier remained motionless. There was no path for them to escape!

Chapter 1512 – Killing a World King

“Attack together! Risk everything!”

In this life or death moment, Mister Zhou’s eyes turned blood red. He joined forces with the other two to attack together!

But at this time, the iron-armored spectral soldiers had come alive. Their bodies emitted crackling ‘ka ka ka’ sounds as stone chips peeled off from their bodies, fluttering onto the floor!

These iron-armored spectral soldiers had glowing red eyes. Their bodies were withered and from these withered bodies one could faintly see visible skin texture!

As Lin Ming saw this he sucked in a breath of cold air. These iron-armored spectral soldiers weren’t sculptures at all, nor were they puppets; they were true people that were molded over and sealed in black stone to form sculptures!

It was impossible for a living person to be sealed for billions of years. But, a corpse, if sealed away using some secret technique, had a possibility of being preserved for 10 billion years as an iron-armored spectral soldier!

These people might have been killed by Bai Qi before his death and then kept here as funeral objects to accompany him. But, none of that was important. What was important was that in Lin Ming’s eyes, he could see that these people had all been World King level existences before their death!

108 World Kings!

It could be imagined that all those billions of years ago during the era when the Asura Road Master ruled the world, the martial arts civilization of that time had been at least 10 times more prosperous than it was now! 108 World Kings... although they had already died and had even been weakened over billions of years, when they joined together they were still a force that Mister Zhou wasn’t able

to deal with!

Bang!

Mister Zhou and the two other saint martial artists attacked with all their strength. They released their strongest moves, barraging the space barrier in a vicious onslaught. However, even though the three of them joined together, they only managed to cause the space barrier to gently vibrate, without a single dent at all!

Like this, a deep sense of despair surged in Mister Zhou's heart. Although he knew that this was an absolute killing zone before he entered Chaos Prison, he didn't think the risks would be so bad!

Even the cowardly Spider Brothers who feared death had only described Chaos Prison as a place where World Kings might perish. But in Mister Zhou's opinion, the Spider Brothers had never entered this place and had exaggerated their description to serve as a deterrent from entering. So, Mister Zhou wasn't too afraid of entering Chaos Prison.

But now, he knew that the Spider Brothers simply weren't able to see the killing intent here and what he thought was their exaggerated description was actually far lacking compared to the truth. This place was not just a danger zone that a World King might die in, but even for a Great World King, this absolute killing zone was an extremely ominous land filled with fatal perils and little hope of surviving!

"You little beast, your plan was good but since you want to harm me then I'll drag you to the grave with me!"

Mister Zhou erupted with a roar. Together with his two followers, they all rushed towards Lin Ming. They wanted to attract those 108 iron-armored spectral soldiers to Lin Ming so that they would all perish together!

However, the moment that they hurtled towards Lin Ming, the saber of a spectral soldier immediately chopped towards the waist

of the weakest late Saint Lord realm martial artist! Although this iron-armored spectral soldier no longer understood Laws, the arcane skills used to refine its corpse made its bodily strength several times greater than it had been before its death. It was invulnerable, immune to fire and water!

Kacha!

With a loud shattering sound, the saint martial artist's protective astral essence instantly exploded. With a keening shriek, his body contorted at an incredible angle. He wanted to use his powerful mortal body to resist the saber light and then use a secret body transformation skill to twist and avoid the saber blade.

However, the iron-armored spectral soldier was far too horrifyingly strong; all of that saint race martial artist's efforts were wasted! Just a single saber strike broke through the Saint Lord realm martial artist's protective astral essence and at the same time continued to cut through his spine, tearing apart all his organs in the meantime!

He had been split apart at the waist!

In that moment, the late Saint Lord realm martial artist felt the heavens and earth spin around him in a dizzying fashion. Like this, only the upper half of his body continued shooting towards the altar, but during this time several hundred divine lights shot out from the altar, scorching his remains to ash!

The scene of such a wretched death was truly eerie!

As for Mister Zhou and the other half-step World King powerhouse, their cultivation was far deeper. By relying on the horrible death of the Saint Lord realm martial artist as well as the slow speed of the iron-armored spectral soldiers, they circled around and rushed up the altar!

They had already prepared themselves. The moment that black beams of light exploded towards them, they forcefully twisted

their bodies to avoid fatal wounds!

Puff! Puff! Puff!

Black divine light pierced through the half-step World King's arm and thigh. After all, his cultivation was lower and he couldn't compare with Mister Zhou. Because of this, he was pierced in several places. Although he avoided being hit in any vital zones of his body, to be so heavily injured on this dangerous altar was the same as dying soon after!

Only Mister Zhou flitted left and right, dodging beam after beam of black light as he rushed towards Lin Ming like a lively cheetah!

Ca!

Black light wove around him. Mister Zhou didn't understand these dao patterns beneath him, thus he stepped on a death zone of the array formation!

As this death zone was activated, several hundred black divine lights shot towards him, sealing away any direction he could escape in. No matter how he twisted his body, he would have to withstand this strike!

“Ahhhh!”

Mister Zhou roared out, erupting his astral essence to the limit, forcefully resisting two beams of black light!

However, the black light was far too terrifying. With a loud rumbling explosion, it was like an iron hammer on glass as it struck Mister Zhou's protective astral essence. With a resounding crack, Mister Zhou's protective astral essence shattered to pieces!

The weakened black light continued forwards, piercing through Mister Zhou's shoulder and thighs!

“So fierce! I have no idea how long the great array formation of this tomb has been here, but it still has such unstoppable might! Even a World King saint martial artist with a powerful body was

immediately pierced through.”

Seeing Mister Zhou continuing to fly towards him, an excited light shined in Lin Ming’s eyes!

All of the strength percolating within his body suddenly erupted to the limit. The phantom of the Heretical God Tree appeared behind him, and in the bough of this tree, a dark blue Divine Dragon was slowly flying around!

“Rahh - !”

A resonant dragon roar rang through to the highest heavens. Lin Ming took a step forwards, stepping onto a life zone of the array formation. He waved the Phoenix Blood Spear, releasing the Eight Inner Hidden Gates to their limits!

He actually had no plan to avoid Mister Zhou’s strike. Rather, he intended to face it head on!

“You little beast, die!”

The current Mister Zhou was covered in blood. Although his present condition was extremely poor, this was a desperate life or death strike made by a World King; the might behind it was extremely terrifying!

Mister Zhou poured all of his remaining strength into his fist and punched out at Lin Ming!

Facing Mister Zhou’s fist, Lin Ming held his spear in both hands and brought it pounding down. “Asura Heavenly Dao, Myriad Demon Karmic Wheel!”

In that instant, a dreadful demonic power poured into the Phoenix Blood Spear. This demonic power burned like divine flames, transforming into a winged Asura phantom with three heads and six arms. This Asura phantom’s six hands each held different weapons, and behind it also spun the Wheel of Samsara. This Wheel of Samsara had similarities to the Wheel of Destiny Lin Ming saw at the City of Discord. It was one of the secret techniques

located within the Asura Sutra, the inheritances of the Asura Road Master – this was the Myriad Demon Karmic Wheel!

Lin Ming had trained for nine years, and after breaking through to the Divine Lord realm, a powerful strength was contained within his body, needing to be released. Thus, he chose to directly confront a World King powerhouse; this would also be his first time doing so!

Bang!

The Phoenix Blood Spear collided with Mister Zhou's fist! In his haste, Mister Zhou hadn't used a weapon. But to the saint race that were skilled in body transformation, their body was their best weapon!

A dreadful explosive sound flooded the area. Mister Zhou felt a titanic strength shoot up his shoulder. His arms went numb and a deep pain enveloped his fists. A trace of blood shot out from his hands!

“What!?”

Mister Zhou was shocked. He thought that his all-out desperate attack would kill Lin Ming, but the result had completely surprised him. Lin Ming had directly resisted this strike! Him, a World King powerhouse, was actually blocked by a human junior who was only several dozen years old!

This was simply a fantastical fairytale!

Although this was a hasty strike and he also didn't use a weapon, he couldn't believe that a junior several cultivation realms below him could possess such a terrifying combat strength!

“You!!!”

Mister Zhou's pupils shrank. As he looked at Lin Ming, a deep fear threatened to overwhelm him. This boy had only grown for several dozen years and yet he had reached this level of ability. If he were given several hundred years to grow, just what would he

become!?

At this time, Lin Ming also felt his blood tumbling within him and his true essence in chaos. After all, a World King was still a World King. Even though this World King was exhausted this was still his desperate life or death attack. With this strike, his fist had still been able to suppress Lin Ming's spear light.

Rumble rumble!

Energy exploded outwards like a tide. In the ruinous shockwaves of that energy, Lin Ming was forced backwards!

However, he had already calculated what path to take. The dao field of the black stone altar had long since been carved into his memory. Every time Lin Ming stepped backwards, he would step on a life zone of the black stone altar and evade the black divine light!

But, Mister Zhou did not have the ability. As he was forced backwards, he bumped into another absolute death dao pattern.

Woosh! Woosh!

Several incomparably thick beams of divine light shot towards Mister Zhou, blocking all directions that he could dodge in. At this time, Mister Zhou had yet to recover himself, thus it was impossible for him to avoid this attack!

Black light howled forwards. A blazing hatred and unwillingness flooded Mister Zhou's eyes.

Peng peng peng peng!

With a series of explosive sounds, Mister Zhou's protective astral essence exploded to pieces. His mortal body was torn apart by the black light and his head flew off. Dimly, Mister Zhou could see as his body became increasingly far away. Then, he saw Lin Ming retreat again and again, but those black beams of light all missed him, none of them even touching his clothes.

“How can this be...?”

Mister Zhou’s pupils gradually lost focus. He found it impossible to imagine that a World King powerhouse like himself had hunted down a junior only several dozen years old, and the result was his current grim fate!

Not only would he perish here, but his last desperate attack hadn’t been able to harm Lin Ming...

Amidst the whistling black light, Mister Zhou’s torn up body was completely scorched to ash!

Like this, a World King powerhouse was turned to ash in front of Bai Qi’s grave. This was the first World King powerhouse that Lin Ming had slain. Although Lin Ming hadn’t directly killed him, he was the one who brought about his death.

Chapter 1513 - More and More Murder

“A World King powerhouse died by my hands!”

At this time, Lin Ming’s blood was still tumbling within his body. He had yet to fully recover from that violent collision just now.

This was the first World King that Lin Ming had killed, but it wouldn’t be the last. This was because before long, he would have to face the next World King!

That would be a truly savage battle. Either they would die, or he would perish!

“Old... Old Zhou...”

Not too far away from where Mister Zhou had miserably died, the half-step World King that was barely managing to live watched helplessly as everything occurring around him. His two eyes were already dull and glazed over.

When he saw Lin Ming block Mister Zhou’s all-out strike he felt as if he were living in some sort of dream. In that maniacal clash of energy, Lin Ming and Mister Zhou had both been sent flying backwards. However, Lin Ming had avoided the murderous black divine light, and as for Mister Zhou, he had died a horrible death!

“This Lin Ming is simply a demon...”

This was the half-step World King’s last thought. Within a breath of time of Mister Zhou’s death, the 108 iron-armored spectral soldiers rushed over to the altar and hacked him to meat sauce!

Like this, the squad that Mister Zhou led here had been completely annihilated!

However, Lin Ming didn’t relax at all. He looked over to those 108 iron-armored spectral soldiers that were approaching.

Chik chik chik!

After the iron-armored spectral soldiers killed the last saint race

martial artist, they turned in unison to Lin Ming and pointed their weapons at him.

Lin Ming's heart tightened. He slowly retreated, but the 108 iron-armored spectral soldiers continued to press down on him!

He had expected this situation from the very start. Every time he took a step he was able to step on a life zone of the black stone altar's dao patterns in order to avoid that terrifying black light. But, these iron-armored spectral soldiers were different. Once they were activated, it was hard to say whether or not they would attack him!

In order to minimize the danger, from the start Lin Ming had never disturbed the grave of Blue Throne Bai Qi. Instead, he used words to provoke Mister Zhou into action.

Otherwise, if he only wanted to activate the great array formation here, Lin Ming wouldn't even have tried to goad his enemies but would have directly attacked them.

The iron-armored spectral soldiers approached closer, step by step. Lin Ming held his breath, his palms wet with sweat.

“Asura Heavenly Dao, Myriad Demon Karmic Wheel!”

Lin Ming lifted his hands. Behind him, a brilliantly red wheel appeared. This wheel was engraved with innumerable demons and Asura phantoms. Runes covered its surface, just like the runes that covered the surface of the ancient bronze coffin in the God Beast Tomb array formation. This wheel was thick with the smell of blood and slaughter!

The so-called Myriad Demon Karmic Wheel was the 10,000 life and death samsaras experienced by 10,000 demons. The pain that these demons suffered in their 10,000 samsaras, their sins, the heavenly tribulations they faced, all of their karma was carved into a wheel and condensed into infinite demonic power. This was an offensive and defensive technique!

However, the reason Lin Ming used the Myriad Demon Karmic Wheel was not to attack or defend. He was well aware that with his limited strength it was simply impossible for him to oppose these 108 iron-armored spectral soldiers. Even if he were to hide within Primordius Heavenly Palace, he would have to face the barrage of attacks from the great array formation. Sooner or later, Primordius Heavenly Palace would run out of energy and he would be in the same dead end as before.

The only way out of this predicament for Lin Ming was to use the power of the Asura Heavenly Dao and obtain the approval of Blue Throne Bai Qi's array formation.

The Myriad Demon Karmic Wheel slowly spun. In the moment that a tide of great demonic power surged out, the 108 iron-armored spectral soldiers froze. The weapons in their hands also slowed down. Their blazing red eyes all focused on the Myriad Demon Karmic Wheel above Lin Ming. Those 108 iron-armored spectral soldiers had been demons before their death, and they had a natural sense of awe and subservience upon seeing this Myriad Demon Karmic Wheel.

Lin Ming held his breath, keeping completely still. This sort of feeling was just like a common mortal facing 108 vicious tigers. A single careless move would mean a fate where he didn't even have bones remaining!

This stalemate lasted for a dozen some breaths of time. To Lin Ming, this time was as long as hours. Then, from the black stone altar, beams of black light shot out. Black lights each struck an iron-armored spectral soldier, and these iron-armored spectral soldiers that were struck immediately returned to being black stone sculptures.

In a short period of time, the 108 iron-armored spectral soldiers completely transformed into black sculptures and gathered again around the black stone altar. The sealed off space crack also re-opened.

One difference was that these 108 iron-armored spectral soldiers were in different positions from before. And, the blazing red light in their eyes hadn't yet gone out. This proved that the array formation was still in an active state.

"I'm safe... for now!"

Lin Ming let out a long sigh of relief, his body dripping with sweat. To face such a close encounter with death, the pressure on him had been great.

Stepping on the life zone dao patterns, Lin Ming stepped off the black stone altar. He used black flames to eliminate the pieces of meat and blood on the ground. After that, he removed all traces of combat and also received Mister Zhou's spatial ring and treasures that he dropped. Then, like a ghost, he flitted back to the shadow of the great array formation, waiting in ambush yet again.

He was like a wolf hiding in the dark, waiting for his prey.

He also summoned Primordius Heavenly Palace. This Heavenly Palace contained the Laws of Space and Time and was able to shrink and grow as he pleased. Currently, Primordius Heavenly Palace was only the size of a table. Lin Ming placed it atop a life zone of the black stone altar's dao patterns, and then with a flash, Lin Ming's figure submerged into it.

As soon as Lin Ming entered Primordius Heavenly Palace he relaxed his body. He immediately began to swallow down pills, sitting down in meditation to control his breathing. He was fully aware that the battle he experienced just now was only the appetizer. Soon, he would have to face more battles, in addition to the extremely deep Tian Mingzi. Lin Ming felt a sense of dread when he thought of Tian Mingzi; he had to adjust himself to his peak condition to face him.

After an incense stick of time, Lin Ming opened his eyes from meditation. He saw Xiao Moxian sitting not too far away from him. When Xiao Moxian had entered Lin Ming's inner world, she also

entered Primordius Heavenly Palace within him.

At this time, Xiao Moxian was leaning back in a chair, her long legs propped up on a stone bench. Her snow white thighs were vivacious, filled with the vitality of youth.

“I didn’t imagine you would also have this kind of move.” Xiao Moxian chuckled. For a time, it was like spring had arrived.

She was referring to when Lin Ming had stood atop the black stone altar and had mercilessly taunted and enraged the saint race martial artists. This sort of Lin Ming was simply far too different from how he was normally.

“The situation required it.” Lin Ming wryly smiled.

“Well, nice acting!” Xiao Moxian leapt down from her chair. “What are we going to do next?”

“Wait.”

Lin Ming didn’t have any better methods. Bai Qi’s tomb was an extremely dire and ominous place, but not every spot in this hall was dangerous.

The black stone altar was likely to be where Bai Qi was buried. If Bai Qi’s corpse was really interred there, then that black stone altar was undoubtedly the most important place in the entire tomb as well as the most dangerous place. To wait there was the wisest and safest choice.

“The absolute killing array here can identify my Myriad Demon Karmic Wheel. Moreover, those 108 iron-armored spectral soldiers are not a force that Tian Mingzi can deal with. If we’re here, we can control the battlefield. However, there’s just something I’m worried about...”

Lin Ming faintly frowned as he spoke.

“What are you worried about?”

“I’m worried that Tian Mingzi might have some hidden card in

hand or perhaps he might be plotting something else. When we left Tragic Death Valley, we stepped into the tracking array formation that he laid down and we have his tracking mark within us! The area outside of Bai Qi's grave isn't too dangerous. By all rights, with Tian Mingzi's strength, he should have caught up to us by now. If so, then the first ones to come here shouldn't have been that one called Mister Zhou, but Tian Mingzi!

“Besides Tian Mingzi there is also Imperial Prince Naqi. Imperial Prince Naqi wasn't with that Mister Zhou fellow, so there can only be two possibilities. Perhaps he never came to God Burying Ridge, or perhaps there is someone even stronger protecting him. That person might be Tian Mingzi or it might be someone else!”

In Lin Ming's opinion, Imperial Prince Naqi had an extremely important role in the saint race. Generally speaking, Imperial Prince Naqi should also be the most closely guarded.

Tian Mingzi was a Great World King. In terms of strength, he was much better than Mister Zhou. However, he wasn't a saint after all and anyone would find it hard to trust in others that weren't of their race. With the saint race's naturally arrogant and suspicious minds, Imperial Prince Naqi most likely wouldn't seek out protection beneath the wing of Tian Mingzi, but with Mister Zhou. However, he didn't do this. This caused Lin Ming to suspect that during his time in Tragic Death Valley, Imperial Prince Naqi had found an even stronger helper.

As Lin Ming was thinking this, the warning array he left outside of the black stone altar was touched. At this time, the warning array was directly shattered. Lin Ming's thoughts turned cold. Someone had come, and they were apparently much stronger than Mister Zhou!

Chapter 1514 – Mister Ash Murder

At this time, outside of Bai Qi's tomb, four saint race martial artists were floating in the endless starry skies. Among these four people was Imperial Prince Naqi!

Of the three people, one was Imperial Prince Naqi's subordinate, Manyu, a half-step World King. The other two wore gray capes, their bodies emitting a horrifying aura that was mysterious and dangerous.

One of these two gray-robed people was faintly in the lead. This person was Mister Ash Murder, the person Naqi had invited here.

Ash Murder was a saint, and had once been shown graciousness in the past by the first ranked disciple of the Good Fortune Saint Sovereign. Now, by helping Naqi, this was the same as returning the favor he owed from the past.

“Mister Ash Murder's sense is truly sharp. Even such a secretive warning array formation was easily discovered by you!”

Imperial Prince Naqi praised from his heart. He didn't know that he had unknowingly stepped into a warning array formation. Even with Mister Ash Murder reminding him, he still wouldn't have been able to see it. Only when Mister Ash Murder destroyed the array formation had he been able to sense it.

“This warning array formation shouldn't have been laid down by that brat Lin Ming, right?”

Imperial Prince Naqi rubbed his chin. If Lin Ming was somewhere ahead of them, laying down a warning array formation so that he could ambush them or escape ahead of time was a highly likely possibility.

The only problem was that Naqi didn't believe this. He found it hard to imagine that Lin Ming's attainments in array formations had reached such a high degree, to a degree that he couldn't sense

it at all and only someone like Ash Murder could do so. This disparity was simply far too great.

He admitted that he was lacking in certain aspects when compared to Lin Ming, but he wouldn't be lacking to such a degree.

Ash Murder hesitated for a moment and then said in a deep and icy tone, "It shouldn't be him. This warning array formation comes from the same lineage as the killing array formations here. The dao patterns and array symbols are very similar; it's unlikely that they stem from the hands of a junior."

When Lin Ming laid down the array formation, he had used the exclusive dao patterns of the Asura Heavenly Dao. This was also the reason why Imperial Prince Naqi, as well as Mister Zhou, hadn't been able to sense the warning array formation.

"So that's how it is. If it was part of the killing array formation here then it's not surprising that I wasn't able to discover it!"

Imperial Prince Naqi immediately became aware, feeling that this argument was fair. He laughed, "Mister Ash Murder is too fierce. All the dangers that we encountered along the way weren't able to hinder Mister Ash Murder at all. Speaking of it, these so-called killing zones must be nothing but fun little danger games to Mister Ash Murder. Perhaps even calling them 'games' is too high a word, hahaha!"

Imperial Prince Naqi laughed out loud. His subordinate Manyu also followed in kind. "Your Highness is right. Although this God Burying Ridge is risky, that also depends on the person. With Mister Ash Murder's strength, coming in and out of here should be extremely easy!"

Ash Murder only faintly smiled at the flattering of these people. His strength had already reached the level of a half-step Emphyrean and in these past years he had also studied ancient arrays. Thus he didn't fear the killing array formations too much. Although he couldn't freely wander about, he wouldn't meet any dangers as

long as he was a bit more careful.

“In the past, the Saint Sovereign’s disciple, Empyrean Saint Mountain, gave me a great graciousness. And now, today I shall help you eliminate this future disaster to the saint race. This can be considered as returning the favor. As for breaking through array formations, that’s just something I happen to be an expert at. In this God Burying Ridge, the only place I somewhat fear is Tragic Death Valley. As for the other places, they can’t be considered much at all. Even for that Tragic Death Valley, once I break into the Empyrean realm, I will also go in to take a look!”

Ash Murder’s words were calm and plain but filled with a high degree of confidence. He truly did want to go to Tragic Death Valley.

“Haha, Mister Ash Murder, I think perhaps the rumors of Tragic Death Valley are overly exaggerated. Even that brat Lin Ming was able to enter Tragic Death Valley and also safely leave. I think that this Tragic Death Valley is far too mediocre!”

Imperial Prince Naqi coldly coughed. If Lin Ming had truly traveled into Tragic Death Valley and then safely left, he would become the sole person in 10 billion years to do so. Naqi naturally refused to accept this no matter what, thus he had to disparage Lin Ming at any given opportunity.

Mister Ash Murder coldly sneered. “Tragic Death Valley is indeed extremely dangerous. Although you say that Lin Ming safely emerged from Tragic Death Valley, I can’t believe that at all!”

“Mm?” Imperial Prince Naqi was stunned. “This is something that Tian Mingzi saw with his own eyes. Does he have some reason to lie?”

“Anything is possible.”

A contemptuous light flashed in Mister Ash Murder’s eyes. Words could be unreliable; only seeing was believing. If someone

were to say that a Divine Transformation realm youth had entered Tragic Death Valley, a place where even Emphyreans perished, and had then safely emerged to become the first person to do so in 10 billion years, then he found that impossible to believe. Moreover, Ash Murder had also studied Tragic Death Valley in the past and knew that Emphyreans had indeed died there!

For a junior like Lin Ming to do something as ridiculous as breaking out of Tragic Death Valley, Ash Murder wouldn't believe it even if he saw this happen with his own eyes, much less believe it based on someone else's account.

"It's either Tian Mingzi is being untruthful, or that Lin Ming in truth never entered Tragic Death Valley to begin with and was only camouflaging himself!"

Mister Ash Murder said with absolute confidence. Naqi was startled, but he felt this was also extremely likely. At the time, besides Tian Mingzi, no one else had seen Lin Ming fly into Tragic Death Valley. And afterwards, none of them had seen Lin Ming emerge from Tragic Death Valley with their own eyes. They had only heard about his whereabouts and had caught up to him here. Who knew if Lin Ming was simply making circles around Tragic Death Valley?

"A bystander can see the situation clearly. What Mister Ash Murder says is right. I was far too ready to believe in the words of others. This is mainly because I subconsciously believed that Lin Ming had an unbelievably great destiny upon his body, thus it was likely that anything incredible could happen to him and not be strange at all, so I believed everything I heard."

Naqi frowned as he spoke. He needed to reconsider everything that Tian Mingzi had told him. It wasn't because he thought that Tian Mingzi was lying to him on purpose, but as Ash Murder said, if Lin Ming with his Divine Transformation realm cultivation was really the first person to leave Tragic Death Valley safely in 10 billion years, then this was simply too unbelievable, no matter who

heard it.

Naqi believed that because he had been defeated miserably by Lin Ming in the past, he subconsciously thought that it was possible for Lin Ming to create any miracle afterwards. This sort of thinking was the same as being mentally defeated before he even fought Lin Ming. Once a martial artist developed this sort of thinking it was nearly impossible for them to surpass the other party.

“Tragic Death Valley is a place where even Emphyreans will be trapped forever. If you say a Divine Transformation realm junior can break out then you are simply taking the world as a joke!” Ash Murder snorted in scathing disdain at Tian Mingzi’s opinion. “Imperial Prince, in the future you will be a leader of the saint race and your achievements might be no worse than the Good Fortune Saint Son’s. You must not let a human junior throw your heart into confusion.”

Ash Murder looked at Naqi and meaningfully said.

Naqi respectfully said, “This junior is truly ashamed. In these past years, during the battle at Chaotic Blood Continent as well as leaving my name upon the Emperor Stone, I have been defeated twice. Those events have really left this junior impatiently angry. In truth, when I fought Lin Ming in the battle on Chaotic Blood Continent, I wasn’t any worse than he was, and when we left our names upon the Emperor Stone, that wasn’t a true contest of our strength! I will restore my confidence and kill Lin Ming so that my heart of martial arts will achieve perfection.”

“Mm, it’s commendable that you can realize this. Let’s continue forwards now. That human junior shouldn’t be too far away.”

They had temporarily lost track of Mister Zhou’s trail. But, they weren’t worried about this, because in Chaos Prison, there were many space barriers and space-time storms, so it was normal to lose contact with tracking marks.

Like this, the four people passed through a space crack and then

arrived in a grand hall.

Within this grand hall was a magnificent black stone altar. It immediately attracted the attention of the four.

The black stone altar was covered in dense layers of dao patterns. 108 fierce sculptures surrounded it, flooding the hall with a terrifying demonic power!

“Mm? This place is...”

Imperial Prince Naqi’s eyes brightened. He could immediately sense that this place was extraordinary!

“Interesting, interesting!” Ash Murder traced his beard, laughing. He had used his sense to investigate just now and discovered that there were likely some treasures buried beneath the black stone altar!

“The heavens truly help me! If I’m not wrong then there are treasures in this place, and there must be a buried divine trove of some sort! I have come to God Burying Ridge several times before but I never imagined that there would be such great treasures buried in this danger zone. This is a tremendous lucky chance. Although I first came here to hunt down some human junior, this is a perfect coincidence, hahaha!”

“Buried treasure!” Imperial Prince Naqi was immediately enthused by these words. He and Ash Murder were travelling together and Ash Murder also owed a favor to his Good Fortune Saint Palace. By all reasoning, a part of the treasures should be divided to him!

Moreover, it was said that this God Burying Ridge was connected to the Asura Road Master. If so, then perhaps this buried treasure was also related to the Asura Road Master. The value and rarity of the Asura Road Master’s treasures could be imagined!

However, being enthused was only being enthused. Imperial Prince Naqi still didn’t lose his calm.

“Mister Ash Murder, the aura of demonic power here is too thick, and those 108 sculptures are each concealing a deep killing intent. This is a danger zone, and although there is buried treasure here, obtaining it will not be easy!”

“Of course!” Ash Murder easily responded, his face filled with confidence. “This divine trove is guarded by layers upon layers of protections, so how could it be easy to obtain? Even someone like me must use some effort, but that is only some effort and eventually I will obtain the treasures. These array formations have already existed for billions or even ten billion years. If the might of the array formations in the past were at a ten, then their present state can only be called a one!”

Ash Murder wasn't blindly confident in himself. No matter what array formation it was, it would be greatly weakened over 10 billion years of time. Moreover, he possessed a half-step Empyrean cultivation as well as an understanding into ancient array formations. He was confident he could eventually break through the array formation here.

“Guard me. I will study the dao patterns first.”

Upon saying this, Ash Murder carefully stepped forwards. The step he took avoided the death zones runes. Although he didn't understand the Asura Heavenly Dao, by relying on his experience of ancient arrays he could faintly feel his way through one or two steps.

Although Ash Murder didn't step on any death zones, because of Mister Zhou's previous invasion, the great absolute killing array within Bai Qi's tomb was already activated. Now, this step of his had become the fire that lit the fuse. Those 108 iron-armored spectral soldiers began to restlessly stir, the red light in their eyes becoming increasingly bright!

Chapter 1515 – Violently Beating the Imperial Prince

A bright red light began sparkling within the eyes of the 108 sculptures, causing a deep sense of fear to stir within Ash Murder.

Their bodies were emitting a horrifying demonic power!

“These sculptures...” Naqi looked at the 108 sculptures, frowning. He could sense a dangerous aura from them, one that made him feel sick and uneasy!

“Mister Ash Murder!” Naqi couldn’t help but call out.

“It’s no problem.” Ash Murder waved his hand. “The situation is still well within my hand.”

Ash Murder took a step back, turning towards those 108 iron-armored spectral soldiers. Astral essence revolved all over his body as he maintained an air of calm around him.

Seeing Ash Murder’s appearance, Naqi felt slightly relieved. Within this absolute killing zone of God Burying Ridge, he was far too weak. He needed the protection of powerhouses to survive here.

“These 108 sculptures are guarding the divine trove. For such a divine trove, it would actually be more strange if there weren’t guardians.” Ash Murder raised both his hands together, drawing dao patterns in the air.

“We first must handle them, otherwise it will be extremely troublesome once we are digging up the treasures!”

As Ash Murder spoke he formed thousands of dao patterns in the air with his hands. “33 Heavens, the gods of life and death, by the name of Ash Murder, seal away all existence!”

Ash Murder’s body shook as he shot out a gray chaos light. This chaos light was actually a little similar to the black hole from the

Divine Seal Art. Of course, it was immeasurably far from reaching the realm of the Divine Seal Art. The Divine Seal Art was a cultivation method created by a True Divinity whereas Ash Murder's sealing technique was only from an incomplete transcendent divine might.

However, as a half-step Empyrean, Ash Murder's cultivation was able to make up for the difference in levels. Several thousand array symbols shot out, instantly blocking the void all around him. He actually wanted to seal away the 108 puppets!

As this sealing technique was shot out by Ash Murder, these 108 iron-armored spectral soldiers violently trembled. The red light in their eyes became increasingly savage and cruel and stone flakes shed off from their bodies. They had come back to life!

The strength of these 108 spectral soldiers gathered together. For a time, the entire hall was flooded in a storm of their potent demonic power.

Bang!

The void shook and the earth trembled. The space crack behind the group suddenly closed as the black stone altar sealed away all exits once more.

"Mister Ash Murder!"

Naqi nearly lost his voice crying out as he saw the space crack disappear.

"Don't worry... the situation is still under my control."

Ash Murder clenched his teeth as he spoke. At this time his face was extremely ugly. The strength of these 108 iron-armored spectral soldiers had far surpassed his imagination.

"These are guard puppets formed by some sage! Moreover, they were all World Kings before their death!"

Ash Murder's eyesight was outstanding. He could immediately

see through a part of the 108 iron-armored spectral soldiers' array formation.

If this was really a true battle array formed by 108 World Kings then Ash Murder would die without a shadow of doubt. But currently, this was only an array formation composed of 108 World King corpse puppets. With this, he still had the strength to fight.

Although Ash Murder thought highly of himself and seemed overly arrogant, he truly did possess a certain level of ability. With his half-step Empyrean cultivation he was much stronger than Mister Zhou!

Woosh! Woosh! Woosh!

The gray chaos light that Ash Murder shot out formed gray ropes that wrapped around the 108 iron-armored spectral soldiers. These ropes were covered with shimmering runes. In Lin Ming's eyes, these runes were extremely crude, but with so many of them connected together in addition to Ash Murder's half-step Empyrean cultivation, they were extremely effective. Just three of these ropes could bind a celestial body!

But at this time, the 108 iron-armored spectral soldiers completely recovered. They raised their various weapons and chopped down at Ash Murder's sealing array!

Kacha!

108 weapons slashed down at these gray ropes!

This attack caused Ash Murder to pale!

Luckily, these iron-armored spectral soldiers had limited intelligence. The force of their attacks was spread all throughout the ropes. If they had joined together to attack one spot on the rope then it would have been immediately cut in half!

"I can't divide my attention, come and lend me a hand! These 108 puppets form a battle array. If we can kill a few of them then the situation will become much easier to handle!"

Ash Murder bellowed. At the same time, he waved his hand and tossed out two human-shaped puppets from his inner world as well as a blue wolf the size of an ox!

Ash Murder himself also refined puppets, and that blue puppet was his contract beast!

Two puppets, a blue wolf, in addition to Imperial Prince Naqi and two others, there were now seven fighters gathered on Ash Murder's side!

By himself, Ash Murder was using a sealing technique to prevent a frontal collision with those 108 iron-armored soldiers. He was well aware that if his sealing technique broke and those iron-armored spectral soldiers rushed towards them, the consequences would be inconceivable!

Seeing Ash Murder holding up the sealing ropes by himself and reaching his limit, Naqi and the others didn't hesitate. All of them joined forces to attack the iron-armored spectral soldiers!

Their ultimate attacks composed a simple battle array. With the three people, a beast, and two puppets joining their attacks, a raging torrent of energy erupted outwards!

“Attack!”

Naqi shouted out loud, ready to release the tyrannical energy of their attack. The iron-armored spectral soldiers in Bai Qi's tomb were formidable, but after billions of years, their bodies had inevitably deteriorated. As long as they could land this attack, killing several of them shouldn't be a problem.

But just as he was about to attack, he felt a cold chill shoot up his back and into the heavens. A profound killing intent had locked onto him!

Someone was sneak attacking him!

This was the first thought that raced through Naqi's mind. He had experienced countless life and death battles and his body had

been conditioned to reflexively respond to dangers in a time of crisis. He didn't think about anything else and immediately leapt forwards!

As he rushed forwards, Naqi caught a glimpse of the person who was sneak attacking him. Then, his mind shook!

“Lin Ming! It's you!”

A blazing anger ignited in Naqi's eyes. He watched helplessly as Lin Ming appeared from the shadows like a ghost, grasping the Phoenix Blood Spear in his hand. Behind him, the phantom of a massive True Dragon had appeared!

The power of fire and thunder heavenly tribulation gathered onto the Phoenix Blood Spear. Howling flames and churning thunder wove together, forming a sea of red and purple!

Kacha!

A spear thrust forwards with unstoppable momentum, exploding towards Imperial Prince Naqi and the others! The temporary combat array they formed immediately exploded to pieces, and the energy they gathered was also blown up by Lin Ming's spear. A terrifying wave of energy blew outwards. The two puppets that Ash Murder released were caught up in this detonation of energy and broke into pieces!

Ash Murder's puppets shouldn't have been so weak. But, something like a puppet depended on their energy to fight, and at this time the two puppets had gathered all of their energy to attack the iron-armored spectral soldiers. The puppets simply hadn't reserved any energy to protect themselves and had instead been struck down by Lin Ming!

After the puppets were instantly destroyed, Lin Ming's spear potential didn't end. He attacked once more!

And the one he chose to attack this time was Imperial Prince Naqi!

Out of everyone here, Naqi was not some strong and mighty figure, but he was an extremely important person. This was because his status was extremely special. If Naqi died then this would ruin the mentality of everyone here as well as cause tremendous losses to the saint race!

At this time, Ash Murder was using all of his strength to hold back the iron-armored spectral soldiers; he simply didn't have time to help. Naqi had to face Lin Ming directly!

Naqi drew backwards, using a halberd to block the waves of energy.

"Lin Ming, a despicable villain like you can only ambush others!"

At this time, Naqi's eyes as he glared at Lin Ming could nearly spit out fire!

"You are calling me a despicable villain? I am younger than you and yet to hunt me down you actually brought a half-step Empyrean as well as two World Kings. Yet, you still call me a despicable villain? Do you have any face at all? If you have the courage then come and fight me yourself. If you are too scared then you are even less than a turtle!"

Lin Ming shot out his spear straight towards Naqi's chest. "Hey turtle, why aren't you running? Are you planning on meeting my strike head-on?"

Lin Ming's imperious attitude enraged Naqi!

"Do you think I really fear you? During the battle on Chaotic Blood Continent, you only won because of a magic tool, that wasn't your ability at all! Take my halberd!"

The hate and anger within Naqi's heart erupted like a volcano. Facing Lin Ming's spear, he no longer evaded but instead struck out his halberd in an open welcome!

Naqi's halberd was like a falling mountain. Golden light radiated outwards!

Seeing Naqi's strike falling down, Lin Ming fiendishly laughed. He simultaneously released the Eight Inner Hidden Gates and Heretical God Force to the limit. The Phoenix Blood Spear in his hands emitted a keening cry. For a time, his spear light howled out like a True Dragon.

“Imperial Prince, be careful!”

Ash Murder shouted out from behind Naqi. However, this warning was too late.

Naqi's all-out strike, that dazzling and thick golden spear light, was actually instantly torn into pieces by the True Dragon phantom formed by Lin Ming's spear. This True Dragon seemed all-powerful, undefeatable as it roared towards Naqi!

Just the aura of that dreadful True Dragon caused Naqi's protective astral essence to shake, as if it would collapse at any moment.

Naqi was panic-stricken. Just how was this possible!?

He never thought that he was much worse than Lin Ming. Even though he lost to Lin Ming in the contest of the Emperor Stone, that was only the difference in talent and potential. Something like potential only slowly translated to strength over a long period of time.

In terms of current strength, Naqi didn't think he would lose to Lin Ming. At least, not by much.

“Imperial Prince Your Highness!”

Beside Naqi, the half-step World King, Manyu, rushed forwards, slashing his saber down at the True Dragon phantom. However, even after being cut by this saber, the True Dragon phantom continued with unstoppable force.

“Explode!”

Lin Ming shouted out. All of the strength poured into the True

Dragon phantom instantly erupted. That half-step World King was blown away. As for Naqi, he bore the brunt of this attack. Lin Ming's spear smashed into his chest!

Kacha!

Naqi's protective astral essence shattered to pieces along with the treasure armor he wore. His ribs broke apart and he spat out a great mouthful of blood. His organs ruptured and he was sent flying backwards like a torn up sack.

"How could... this be... he... he is not at Divine Transformation... he is a Divine Lord!"

Naqi's eyes were blurred and empty. The moment that he was struck by Lin Ming he also determined Lin Ming's cultivation. At that time, it was like someone had pulled out his spine.

Lin Ming's spear strike not only crushed Naqi's ribs and organs, but it also completely annihilated his confidence!

He couldn't believe that a mere several years ago, Lin Ming had only been at the middle Divine Transformation realm and now he had grown into the Divine Lord realm!

As for Naqi himself, during the battle of Chaotic Blood Continent he had only been at the late Saint Transformation realm. And even now, he was still at the late Saint Transformation realm. Although his strength had grown, his cultivation remained stranded where it was. Compared to Lin Ming, this was the same as the heavens and earth.

"This is... because of the approval of the Emperor Stone? How can I... ever... surpass such potential..." In that moment, Naqi's physical wounds were not as great as the wounds of his mind. He had completely lost all courage to face Lin Ming.

Chapter 1516 – The Furious Ash Murder

Seeing Imperial Prince Naqi grievously injured by his spear strike, how could Lin Ming give him a chance to recover? Taking advantage of his weakened state, Lin Ming stepped forwards, slashing out the Phoenix Blood Spear to take Naqi's head!

To finish off his opponents without any reservation, this was how Lin Ming fought!

“Your Highness!”

Beside Naqi, Manyu cried out in panic. If the Imperial Prince died then it would be because of his protection being flawed. Once he returned to the saint race he would suffer extreme penalties.

“You dare to injure the Imperial Prince of my people? I'll take your life!” Manyu grabbed a saber and cut out at Lin Ming's waist, wanting to use this attack to force him back.

Lin Ming shouted out loud and a broad and ancient stone gate appeared beside him. This stone gate was as stable and still as a mountain, completely blocking Manyu's saber strike!

Kacha!

The saber slashed down on the stone gate. The stone gate only trembled a little but not a single mark was left behind.

“Out of my way!”

Lin Ming struck his palm out on the stone gate. The stone gate howled out, suppressing Manyu!

“This brat!” Manyu was shocked. Lin Ming's strength had far exceeded his imagination! By himself, he actually faced all of them together and had taken the upper hand! Although it could be said that Lin Ming took advantage to sneak attack them the moment they were all focused on dealing with the 108 iron-armored spectral soldiers, for him to accomplish this was nearly

unbelievable. After all, he only had an early Divine Lord cultivation.

Manyu didn't have time to think about how Lin Ming broke into the Divine Lord realm in just a few years; he had to face off against this incomparably heavy Primordius Gate. This area was an absolute killing zone. Although Lin Ming was able to recklessly dash about, Manyu definitely didn't have the courage to do so.

He slashed out several hundred saber lights, all of the saber lights crashing onto the Primordius Gate and releasing a dazzling explosion. At the same time he roared out loud and used his fists to punch against the Primordius Gate. He wanted to use his powerful saint race body to forcefully resist the Primordius Gate.

His entire body swelled with blood vitality, some of it even leaking out the corners of his mouth. He turned around and what he saw left his body icy cold. Lin Ming had already arrived in front of Naqi. Naqi's face was pale. Right now, his life hung on the thinnest thread!

Lin Ming's attack was merciless. With a sharp thrust of his hand, the Phoenix Blood Spear whistled forth, howling towards Naqi like a raging red dragon!

As long as this spear struck, Naqi would die without a burial ground!

But as soon as the Phoenix Blood Spear was about to strike Naqi, a gray rope whipped outwards and wrapped around Naqi, immediately carrying him away!

Bang!

The Phoenix Blood Spear heavily smashed into a space barrier. The space barrier trembled and divine light shot out, but the space barrier didn't even have the tiniest crack. This was the space barrier that held Bai Qi's grave; not even a Great World King was able to break through it.

“Just a little bit more!”

Lin Ming darkly sighed in regret. Just a little more and he would have killed Naqi!

As he turned around, he saw Naqi wrapped in the gray rope and shooting towards a gray-robed man. Naqi entered his inner world, vanishing from sight.

This gray-robed man was that mysterious Mister Ash Murder.

“So you are Lin Ming! To think that you would ambush us here. You little beast, I will take your life!”

Ash Murder was so angry that his insides were gurgling within him, seething with rage! Lin Ming had chosen the time when his concentration was completely focused on other matters to sneak attack him. Before this, he didn't even know that Lin Ming had been hiding here. Lin Ming's sudden appearance had left Ash Murder startled.

The battle array that Imperial Prince Naqi and the others formed had been shattered by Lin Ming, and the two puppets were also crushed apart by him. Not just that, but Lin Ming had made him lose his concentration in order to save Naqi. This caused the pressure of those 108 puppets to be even greater on him!

“This brat was already long waiting in ambush here. He was waiting for us to break out of the array formation before he sneak attacked us!”

Ash Murder wasn't an idiot; he was able to immediately understand what was happening. A junior that was only several dozen years old was able to freely move within a danger zone of God Burying Ridge, a place where even World Kings could perish. Not just that, but he was able to keep guard in this ancient array formation and ambush a half-step Emphyrean!

This boldness and these methods caused even Ash Murder to feel a cold chill run down his spine.

Lin Ming glanced at Ash Murder and simply didn't bother him with. He turned around and immediately attacked Manyu!

Although Ash Murder had invested all of his strength into sealing away the 108 iron-armored spectral soldiers and was unable to divert his attention, he still possessed a half-step Empyrean cultivation and likely had many terrifying abilities. Lin Ming found it hard to contend with an ordinary World King right now. If he approached Ash Murder, a simple strike would severely wound him or even kill him.

The most intelligent plan would be to wait until Ash Murder was completely exhausted by the iron-armored spectral soldiers, and then Lin Ming could wait for a chance to deal with him.

"Brat, you really do not know the meaning of death or danger!" Manyu was already enraged by Lin Ming. He had been caught off guard by Lin Ming's sneak attack and now that he saw Lin Ming continue to attack him, he roared out loud, grasped his saber and slashed out at Lin Ming!

All of his strength was poured into this saber strike without any held back! He had already seen Lin Ming's strength with his own eyes, but he didn't believe that Lin Ming had the strength to kill a half-step World King in frontal combat.

A saber cut out, the saber light piercing through the dark like a bolt of lightning. At this time, the Phoenix Blood Spear was still covered with the interwoven power of thunder and fire, but it was different from the previous red and purple spear light. This time, Lin Ming's spear also contained a gray light, one that seemed to swallow all of existence!

This gray light was concealed in the spear light, seeming common and humble, something that no one would notice. After all, it wasn't strange for a martial artist's attack to cause an eruption of multi-colored lights. These lights were the colors of the various Laws.

Kacha!

An explosive whistling burst out and Lin Ming's figure suddenly came to a stop. His spear crashed into the saber and the power of thunder and fire erupted, surging outwards!

A terrifying impact spread through Lin Ming's body, causing him to fly away. He didn't lose his balance because of Manyu's attack, but had used the attack to swiftly bounce away like a bird. As for Manyu, his body shook for a moment before he stabilized himself.

"Manyu, join forces with my contract beast and delay Lin Ming! I just need you to buy me some more time!"

Ash Murder shouted as blue veins stuck out all over his face. In that collision just now, Lin Ming had been forced back and Manyu had only shaken a bit. This allowed Ash Murder to let out a breath of relief. As long as Manyu could suppress Lin Ming, then all he had to do was seal away these iron-armored spectral soldiers. Once he did so, killing Lin Ming was only a matter of time.

"Awoo!"

With Ash Murder's order, the silver blue wolf contract beast let loose a howl as it hurtled itself towards Lin Ming!

In that explosion just now, the silver blue wolf had also been injured. But, the life force of an ancient vicious beast was extremely tough. Even if it were severely wounded it could still stubbornly continue fighting!

The silver blue wolf flanked Lin Ming and leapt at him. At Ash Murder's order, Manyu should have joined in to attack from Lin Ming's right. However, as the blue wolf rushed forwards, Manyu remained motionless as before.

During his collision with Lin Ming just now, when Manyu broke through the thunder and fire heavenly tribulation, an all-swallowing black light had shot into his spiritual sea!

This black light was a soul attack that came from the inheritance

of Empyrean Divine Mist – this was Empyrean Divine Mist’s transcendent divine might!

Empyrean Divine Mist’s soul attacks were completely different from all other soul attacks that Lin Ming knew of. Most soul attacks used one’s own soul as the weapon, and if the attack failed, one would receive a backlash to the soul. But, Empyrean Divine Mist’s soul attacks could actually use energy to directly strike an opponent’s soul, without any need for using one’s own soul as the attack medium.

As long as one fused this energy into their attack, then this attack would have both a material attack as well as a soul attack; this was a nearly unstoppable strike!

“What is happening?”

Seeing Many remain motionless, Ash Murder was confused. Many hadn’t died but his mind had entered a state of utter chaos, one that he was unable to rid himself of.

And at this time, Lin Ming welcomed the silver blue wolf. With a loud shout, he opened the Eight Inner Hidden Gates to their limits. The phantom of a True Dragon reappeared behind him. “Celestial Tyrant Manual – Hundred Layered Waves!”

In an instant, 100 spears thrust out and fused as one. Lin Ming’s bodily strength suddenly increased by several times, reaching several billion jins of strength!

After losing Many’s pincer attack, the silver blue wolf had to face Lin Ming alone!

Bang!

Lin Ming’s spear crashed into the silver blue wolf’s skull!

An impact force of several billion jins erupted. With a loud cracking sound, the silver blue wolf’s skull caved in and its two eyeballs were popped out by the pressure.

“Awoo!”

The silver blue wolf emitted a sorrowful howl. Its magnificent body was directly pounded into the ground by Lin Ming’s brutal and absolute strength. Fresh blood and pieces of meat were sent flying out!

Lin Ming’s attack was ruthless, giving no chance of reprieve. He stepped forwards, thrusting his spear out at the silver blue wolf’s throat!

The Phoenix Blood Spear pierced through, and with a twist, the silver blue wolf’s throat and neck were torn apart as the spine was completely severed. Like this, the silver blue wolf died a miserable death!

“Silverback!”

Seeing Lin Ming kill his own contract beast, Ash Murder’s eyes turned red with rage! His blue wolf wasn’t strong. Although the blue wolf was an ancient vicious beast, ancient vicious beasts normally grew at a slower pace than the mortal races. He had tamed the blue wolf far too early and although Ash Murder was at the half-step Empyrean realm, the blue wolf was only equal to a mid to late Saint Transformation realm martial artist. At this point, the blue wolf was no longer able to provide much help to Ash Murder, but Ash Murder had always felt an extremely deep sentimentality towards this contract beast that he had raised for hundreds of thousands of years. Now, this contract beast of his had been killed by Lin Ming’s spear strike. How he could not hate!?

“Brat, I will pull out your soul and tear you to pieces!”

Ash Murder angrily roared. He felt like a lion that had been wrapped in chains and was now being played around with by a mouse!

As for Lin Ming, he simply didn’t care about Ash Murder’s threat. He turned around and rushed towards Manyu, who was

still frozen by his soul attack!

At the same time, Ash Murder's body burnt all over with gray flames. His face turned as red as fresh blood!

Then, he suddenly bit down on the tip of his tongue and spat out blood essence. This blood essence began to brilliantly burn!

Ash Murder had been pushed to the brink by Lin Ming. Without any hesitation, he burnt his blood essence to use an arcane skill. He vowed to kill Lin Ming here and now!

Chapter 1517 – Angering One To Death

Piki paka!

Ash Murder's entire body erupted with astral essence. His upper robes tore apart, revealing a vibrant and thickly muscled body as strong as diamonds. These muscles were completely covered with blue veins that stuck out like worms, continuing to inflate!

As his muscles inflated, Ash Murder also increased in size. His skin split apart and massive bone spikes stretched out from his body, shining with a cold light.

Many saint race martial artists were capable of body metamorphosis and Ash Murder was no exception to this. With an enraged half-step Empyrean burning his blood essence and then metamorphosing his body, it could be imagined just how dangerous he was!

Chi-la!

All of Ash Murder's clothes split apart. Behind him, a pair of dripping wings stretched out, similar to a bat. Ash Murder's arms also grew to seven or eight feet long, as long as an adult was high. His arms were covered with blue veins and had claws that were sharp and fierce!

After transforming his body, Ash Murder resembled a savage demon!

As Ash Murder transformed his body, the gray ropes he formed with his sealing technique also burst apart!

With Naqi's combat array broken, it was no longer realistic for Ash Murder to think of sealing away these 108 iron-armored spectral soldiers, especially in the face of Lin Ming's assault.

With this being the case, he no longer bothered with sealing away the spectral soldiers. Instead, he chose to fight. He wanted to tear apart Lin Ming and then break through this array formation

of iron-armored spectral soldiers!

Although these spectral soldiers were strong, once he ripped apart a corner it would be possible to escape!

“You little beast, give me your life!”

After burning his blood essence, Ash Murder’s face was blood red. He completely ignored the iron-armored spectral soldiers and crazily threw himself towards Lin Ming, wanting to kill this human brat who he hated to the extreme.

Seeing Ash Murder hurtle towards him, Lin Ming remained calm. For Lin Ming to face Ash Murder in this condition would be a hopeless battle.

Then, a table-sized gray palace shot out from Lin Ming’s inner world, rapidly spinning about. Lin Ming sank into this palace, vanishing from sight.

This was Primordius Heavenly Palace, an escape route that Lin Ming had kept in place all this time.

Seeing this, Ash Murder sneered. “You want to hide away in your abode but you will die all the same! I will crush your turtle shell!”

Kacha!

With a terrifying sonic boom, Ash Murder’s claws struck Primordius Heavenly Palace. The grand array formation within the Heavenly Palace violently trembled. However, although the array formation shook, there wasn’t the slightest crack in its defenses. Primordius Heavenly Palace had solidly withstood Ash Murder’s attack!

According to Empyrean Primordius, as long as Primordius Heavenly Palace was given enough energy, no force below that of an Empyrean would be able to break through it. Although Ash Murder had transformed his body and burnt his blood essence, he was still a half-step Empyrean. Moreover, he couldn’t be considered an outstanding existence amongst half-step Empyreans.

Between him and a true Empyrean, the difference was immeasurably vast. It was absolutely impossible for him to break through the defenses of Primordius Heavenly Palace!

“What!?”

That strike just now had caused Ash Murder’s arms to go numb. He didn’t think that his all-out strike would actually be blocked by such a common-looking palace.

With his strength, he could crush thousands of miles of mountains and rivers, and yet he couldn’t even break apart this table-sized palace.

“Is this an Empyrean spirit treasure?”

Ash Murder immediately thought. An Empyrean spirit treasure wasn’t too rare; even he possessed them. But, most Empyrean spirit treasures were weapons and armor. In their life, an Empyrean ordinarily refined two or three Empyrean spirit treasures, and with the countless Empyreans that had appeared in the 33 Heavens through the billions of years of history, there were many weapons and armors left behind by them.

As for other categories of Empyrean spirit treasures such as accessories, flexible armors, pill furnaces, or other such treasures, they were mostly ignored. These types of objects had extremely harsh requirements in terms of materials and array formations needed. An Empyrean wouldn’t normally refine such items, thus not many of these types of Empyrean spirit treasures existed.

And, if there was a category of Empyrean spirit treasure that was rarer than those, that would be an immortal abode spirit ship!

A weapon could be refined from a piece of divine iron, but a dwelling was different. It required far too many complex structures and array formations, making it so that it would inevitably be shaky and weak. But now, Lin Ming’s Empyrean spirit treasure was such a rare immortal abode spirit ship.

And, if it could block his attack so easily, then it likely wasn't just an Empyrean spirit treasure, but the highest peak of Empyrean spirit treasures.

All of these thoughts passed through Ash Murder's mind like a bolt of lightning. But at this time, his complexion immediately changed. He could feel a massive killing intent lock onto him; he had stepped onto a death zone dao pattern!

“Damn!”

Ash Murder cursed in his heart. This wasn't a coincidence at all, but a plan Lin Ming had thought of from the start!

Lin Ming had deliberately stood behind this death zone dao pattern. When Ash Murder attacked Lin Ming, he had stepped into this trap!

Woosh! Woosh! Woosh!

Hundreds of black divine lights shot out from all directions, blocking all directions for Ash Murder to dodge in!

In that moment, Ash Murder was so enraged that his hair almost flew straight up and his eyes nearly popped out of his head. His intestines hurt from anger so much that they twisted in his body!

In this encounter with Lin Ming, he had been suppressed and controlled at every turn, suffering loss after loss. How could he not be infuriated.

“You little bastard, you remember me!”

Underneath the net of black lights, dodging was no longer possible. Ash Murder roared out loud and closed his two wings around himself. He stimulated his astral essence to the limit, forcefully resisting this strike!

This was an absolute killing zone that Lin Ming had carefully chosen; it was at least a hundred times more dangerous than normal danger zones. Since Lin Ming wanted to kill Ash Murder he

naturally had to choose the riskiest place!

Peng!

Thick beams of black light crashed into Ash Murder's protective astral essence. They pierced through his wings and smashed into his body.

Ash Murder's muscles tore and his blood vessels burst apart. However, Ash Murder was indeed worthy of being called a half-step Empyrean powerhouse. In addition to the powerful mortal body of a saint, he had abruptly withstood this barrage of black lights!

Of course, this was also because Bai Qi's tomb had existed for far too long. Too much of the array formation's energy had faded away, making it much weaker than it was at the start. Otherwise, if it were at full power, then even a true Empyrean might have perished if they entered here!

After being tricked by Lin Ming, Ash Murder's entire body was wet with blood. His wings had nearly been torn in half and he looked wretched.

As for Lin Ming, he was calmly hiding in Primordius Heavenly Palace, watching all of this occur.

"Haha, Old Man Ash Murder, your defensive capabilities are quite good. You lived through such an attack but your wings are torn and you seem a bit pathetic. You continue fighting out there. I'm going to take some pills and restore my condition. After I'm better, I'll come back out to play with you."

Lin Ming's words could be called angering someone to death. He purposefully said this to provoke Ash Murder and disrupt his rhythm!

He could see that this Ash Murder was extremely strong and also had a certain understanding of array formations. As for the great array formation of Bai Qi's tomb, it had undergone far too long a

time. In the case that it wasn't able to kill Ash Murder, the consequences would be disastrous.

However, breaking through these dao patterns required a calm mindset. If Ash Murder wildly stumbled around and stepped onto several more killing zone dao patterns, the results could be imagined.

Disturbing Ash Murder's mindset was the exact effect that Lin Ming wanted.

Hearing Lin Ming's words, Ash Murder felt his eye sockets nearly split open. He took a deep breath, glaring at Primordius Heavenly Palace with utter hate. His burning gaze seemed as if it could pierce through the Heavenly Palace and kill Lin Ming. He was well aware that Lin Ming was deliberately angering him, but even though he knew this, it was hard for him to calm down his heart. After all, once he transformed his body, his personality became even more crazy, savage, and hard to control.

Ash Murder knew that the dwelling Lin Ming was hiding in was an Empyrean spirit treasure. As long as he continued to attack, he would slowly exhaust the energy of the palace. Then, he could seize Lin Ming and do whatever he wished with him.

However, he didn't have this chance because at this time, those 108 iron-armored spectral soldiers had already rushed forwards. The moment that he attacked Lin Ming, the remaining other two people, Manyu and his own follower, had already been hacked to pieces by the spectral soldiers' weapons!

Thus, except for Naqi who had been received into Ash Murder's inner world, everyone else had died!

The iron-armored spectral soldiers roared out loud and hurled themselves towards Ash Murder. Ash Murder broke into the midst of the spectral soldiers, slamming his claws atop one of their heads!

Kacha!

That iron-armored spectral soldier was smashed away by Ash Murder's claws like a flimsy chicken! It crashed into the space barrier, causing cracks to tear through its body.

Ash Murder's strike had cracked the spectral soldier's body. This was simply because far too much time had passed and its body had eroded over the years.

If Ash Murder only faced a single iron-armored spectral soldier then he could easily win. But unfortunately, he had to face 108 of them.

Pitch black ghostly sabers chopped down on Ash Murder's body. All of these iron-armored spectral soldiers were covered in a thick aura of death, as if they were evil ghosts that rushed out from the depths of hell!

"Old Idiot Ash Murder, you're quite fierce! But, I don't think you'll be able to last much longer. This place is quite peaceful; it would be perfect for your tomb. What do you think? Hahahaha!"

Lin Ming began making a ruckus from within Primordius Heavenly Palace once more.

Ash Murder's eyes blazed red. He forcefully held back the cruel and savage personality he gained after transforming his body. If he could just grab ahold of Lin Ming right now, he would tear him to strips!

Whoosh!

A burning arrow shot towards Ash Murder. Ash Murder punched out, blowing up the arrow. Then, with a wave of his hand, seven or eight nearby spectral soldiers were sent flying back by him.

"Amazing!" Lin Ming clapped. "Splendid, you are truly splendid. This is extremely entertaining! How come it feels like I'm watching a monkey dance around?"

Lin Ming tried to anger Ash Murder some more. In front of Lin Ming, Xiao Moxian traced her chin as she sized up Lin Ming.

“You’re too naughty Lin Ming. I think that old man Ash Murder, even if he isn’t killed by the army of those iron-armored spectral soldiers, would still be angered to death by you.”

Lin Ming shook his head, saying, “It would be great if I could anger him to death. This person is extremely fierce. Normally, it is very difficult to control your personality after undergoing body metamorphosis, but even after being mocked by me he is still managing to suppress the negative thoughts in his heart so that he doesn’t step into some danger zone.”

As Lin Ming spoke, he was continuously keeping track of Ash Murder’s steps. The dao patterns in Bai Qi’s tomb were in all directions and at all heights. Whether it was flying in the air or walking on the ground, one could touch them. As for Ash Murder, it was impossible for him to remain still while fighting these iron-armored spectral soldiers.

And if he were to be forced all over then he would inevitably fall into a danger zone. After all, he wasn’t like Lin Ming who had a true understanding of the Asura Heavenly Dao. Ash Murder only relied on his intuition and the experience he gained through numerous life or death dangers to feel his way between the life zones and death zones.

“These iron-armored spectral soldiers are being destroyed by him, but once he steps into another death zone, I want to see just how he’ll hide!”

As Lin Ming looked at Ash Murder, his eyes blazed with a brilliant light.

Chapter 1518 – Sacred Soul Primal Spirit

In the fierce combat, Ash Murder stepped onto a death zone once more!

Ash Murder wasn't like Lin Ming and didn't understand the Asura Road's array formations. It was inevitable that he would step into a death zone.

When Ash Murder's foot fell down, the ground of the entire hall shivered. An indescribable killing intent enveloped Ash Murder's heart, causing him to be shocked.

He instantly realized that he had stepped onto a death zone dao pattern!

No matter how much he calculated things, it was impossible for Ash Murder to avoid all the death zones; he would touch one sooner or later! Without thinking, Ash Murder immediately drew backwards.

But at this time, an extremely strong power of space bound his steps. Then, a life reaping black light howled towards him!

This black light wasn't enough to take Ash Murder's life. But in his current condition, he had already been injured and had even burnt his blood essence as well as a massive amount of astral essence. If he was struck by this black light then that would be adding wounds upon his wounds, making it difficult for him to continue facing these iron-armored spectral soldiers!

In this life or death moment, Ash Murder exploded with a thunderous roar. "Sacred Soul Primal Spirit!"

As Ash Murder roared out loud, there was an explosive crackling sound. From within Ash Murder's body, it seemed as if something had been freed. A crazy wave of demonic power surged forth, forming the phantom of an ancient beast behind Ash Murder's body. This ancient beast had two wings, with the body of an

animal and the head of a man.

This ancient vicious beast had an illusory body but the aura it emitted was beyond terrifying. As that black light came crashing down, it erupted an incomparably dreadful power that smashed apart all the surrounding space.

The space within Bai Qi's tomb had already been locked down by the array formation. Once the killing array began, the space barrier would be closed, sealing away all paths of exit. However, when Ash Murder summoned this ancient vicious beast phantom, he forcefully broke open a crack in space!

“Mm!?”

Within Primordius Heavenly Palace, Lin Ming was bewildered. Although the grand array formation of Bai Qi's tomb had greatly weakened through the billions of years, it still wasn't something that an ordinary half-step Empyrean could break through.

He could feel that this man-faced ancient vicious beast wasn't a part of Ash Murder's soul. Rather, it was the soul and flesh-blood essence of an ancient beast that had been sealed within his body.

In this crucial moment, Ash Murder released this power, causing his strength to instantly rise!

Woosh! Woosh! Woosh!

Several beams of black light shot forwards! That Sacred Soul Primal Spirit savagely roared out, its body immediately bulging outwards, wrapping around Ash Murder to resist that black divine light.

Puff puff!

All of the black light rained down in a dreadful deluge, sounding as if a thunderstorm was rolling past. A dreadful atmosphere filled the entire hall!

In this crazy explosion, the Sacred Soul Primal Spirit phantom

was torn to pieces by the black light. Ash Murder's entire body was covered in blood; he was nearing his limit.

“Break for me!”

Ash Murder cried out. He burnt 10% of his blood essence!

A ghostly red sheen began shining over his body. As he struck the space barrier with all his strength, three surrounding iron-armored spectral soldiers were sucked into the shockwaves, their bodies cracking apart and then exploding into fragments.

“God Stranding Rope!”

Ash Murder linked his fingers together. Seven or eight masses of chaos energy gathered together into gray ropes that flew towards Primordius Heavenly Palace, instantly tying it down.

Lin Ming immediately understood what Ash Murder was trying to do. He didn't plan to fight this iron-armored spectral soldier array formation. Rather, he wanted to break through the void and then escape from Bai Qi's tomb, dragging Lin Ming and Primordius Heavenly Palace along with him!

As long as he escaped here then Primordius Heavenly Palace would eventually run out of energy. At that time, both he and Xiao Moxian would die without a doubt!

“Lin Ming, what do we do!?” Xiao Moxian felt her heart tighten as she saw those God Stranding Ropes wrap around Primordius Heavenly Palace.

Although Primordius Heavenly Palace was large, if it was sealed away by Ash Murder using his special sealing technique and then taken into his inner world, then carrying it through a small space crack wouldn't be a problem.

Ultimately, even though Primordius Heavenly Palace was a peak Empyrean spirit treasure, Lin Ming's cultivation was the limiting factor. He was simply unable to activate its movement and could only depend on the great array formation that already existed

within Primordius Heavenly Palace. This placed him in a completely passive situation.

“We can’t just wait here to die. We must risk our lives!”

In that moment, a sharp light flashed through Lin Ming’s eyes. This Ash Murder that had come from nowhere had far exceeded his expectations; this was the strength of a half-step Empyrean, someone only inferior to an Empyrean existence. Looking at the entire Divine Realm, there were likely no more than a thousand such characters.

Rumble rumble rumble!

A ghostly battle chariot rolled toward Ash Murder. The spectral soldier standing atop this chariot grasped a dark axe as it chopped down at Ash Murder’s head. Gray flames burned all over it, emitting a thick aura of death.

Ash Murder didn’t turn around. He bent his body at an incredible angle to evade the attack and then his arms stretched out to wrap around that spectral soldier’s neck. With a cracking sound, Ash Murder forcefully twisted off that spectral soldier’s head!

Like this, Ash Murder had already destroyed 30 some iron-armored spectral soldiers. The fewer spectral soldiers there were, the easier it was for Ash Murder to handle them. But at this time, Ash Murder had repeatedly used arcane skills and had even combusted his blood essence; he wouldn’t be able to last for much longer. If he continued to fight then it was possible that he would perish together with these iron-armored spectral soldiers.

“Break for me!”

Ash Murder roared out in his heart. At this time, he was resisting the onslaught of dozens of iron-armored spectral soldiers. Behind him, the severely damaged Sacred Soul Primal Spirit was breaking apart the space barriers of this hall!

The iron-armored spectral soldiers were only lifeless objects with

no wisdom of their own. They would first attack things that threatened them, and as for the Sacred Soul Primal Spirit, it was only smashing the space barrier. Because of this, all of the iron-armored spectral soldiers had focused their attacks on Ash Murder and just a bit less than half of the space barrier had been ripped open by the Sacred Soul Primal Spirit!

This fight was becoming increasingly intense. Ash Murder's eyes were red from fury and slaughter and he had already burnt over 20% of his blood essence. Wounds covered his entire body and his two wings had been completely torn off. His chest and back both had bones exposed, and there were even some that revealed his damaged organs.

He had already neared his limit.

And at this time, behind Ash Murder, the Sacred Soul Primal Spirit had forcefully withstood the barrage of black lights and was now using its remaining strength to break open the space barrier; it was nearly exhausted of power.

Ash Murder grit his teeth. Today's battle had cost him serious losses!

He glared towards Lin Ming's direction with brutal hatred in his eyes. Everything that he lost today would be made up for by Lin Ming's body. Thus, even if carrying away Lin Ming caused his own chances of escaping to be that much lower, he would still do it with no regrets!

If he didn't kill Lin Ming then his thoughts would never flow smoothly for the rest of his life.

"Mm? Something's wrong!"

Looking towards Primordius Heavenly Palace, Ash Murder felt a foreboding premonition in his heart. Out of the God Stranding Ropes he used to bind Primordius Heavenly Palace, someone had torn up a small section of it. This was proof that someone had

taken advantage of the chaos of battle to secretly escape.

“This brat!”

Ash Murder felt a profound restlessness surge in his heart. He cast out his sense like a tide, searching for Lin Ming. However, he wasn't able to find him at all.

“Damn it all!”

Ash Murder was sure that this wasn't just Lin Ming's plan to distract him and lead him away. During his short contact with Lin Ming, he could feel that although Lin Ming was young, the way he handled his affairs was decisive and crafty. He didn't believe that Lin Ming would just sit here, waiting for his death.

“Where is he?”

The longer Ash Murder couldn't find Lin Ming, the more uneasy he became. But in the moment that he had diverted his concentration to search for Lin Ming, an iron-armored spectral soldier had grasped a spear and stabbed Ash Murder's back!

The ghostly fires burnt his flesh. Blood shot into the wind!

“Ahh!”

Ash Murder roared. He turned and smashed his palm against the iron-armored soldier's head, breaking it open.

Now, he had killed over 40 iron-armored spectral soldiers!

All this time, Lin Ming had been hiding in the shadow of the black stone altar's array formation. The moment that Ash Murder shattered the head of this iron-armored spectral soldier, he rushed out like a cheetah!

He stepped on the Space Laws, his speed reaching incredible levels. As he hurtled out from the shadow of the array formation, he had already calculated his path to avoid all the death zone dao patterns.

Lin Ming gripped his spear in both hands, his bodily strength

climbing to the peak. His target was actually the Sacred Soul Primal Spirit phantom that was trying to break through the space barrier!

Lin Ming's goal was obvious. He wanted to kill this Sacred Soul Primal Spirit phantom that was already injured, and then trap Ash Murder in Bai Qi's tomb and strangle him to death here!

"Lin Ming, you really came out! Did you think I wouldn't be ready for this!?" Ash Murder demonically grinned as he saw Lin Ming shoot towards his Sacred Soul Primal Spirit. Lin Ming's plan was extremely vicious, but what a pity, a half-step Empyrean was still a half-step Empyrean. Even though he was severely wounded his combat strength was still terrifying, so how could he be successfully sneak attacked by a junior like Lin Ming!

"You are hopeless!" The severely wounded Ash Murder forcefully spat out another mouthful of blood essence, burning it away. This was the limit of blood essence he was able to burn. A half-step Empyrean far surpassed Lin Ming in strength to begin with, and now by burning his blood essence, he became even stronger!

It could only be said that Ash Murder feared and hated Lin Ming too much. Even though victory was in his hands, he still had to insure against all possibilities so that Lin Ming didn't have the tiniest chance to recover!

"Once you leave the protection of this hall's array formation, you are nothing at all! I can pinch you to death with my hand! Since you seek death then let me help you on your way!"

A grim light burst out from Ash Murder's eyes. With a roar, he punched away the iron-armored spectral soldiers in front of him and reversed himself to hurtle towards Lin Ming!

At this time, Ash Murder was already desperate. He didn't hesitate to spend any price to kill Lin Ming!

With Ash Murder's half-step Empyrean cultivation and also

having burnt his blood essence, killing the Divine Lord Lin Ming would only take an instant!

Lin Ming was extremely fast but Ash Murder was even faster. Even though Lin Ming distorted space, he was unable to avoid the eruption of energy coming from Ash Murder. The shackles of the power of space were stiffly torn apart by him!

“Die!”

Ash Murder punched out. In that moment, this fist locked down the space around Lin Ming, making him unable to avoid the strike. A terrifying fist potential erupted forwards like an avalanche. Not to mention Lin Ming, even a World King powerhouse would be pulverized to nothing by this strike!

Lin Ming suddenly froze. He was unable to break through the space that was locked down by this fist potential.

“You’re finished!”

The bloody Ash Murder wildly cackled as his fist solidly smashed into Lin Ming’s chest.

Chapter 1519 – Unimaginable

Kacha!

With a resounding crack, Lin Ming's protective true essence exploded as Ash Murder's fist smashed into him. In that moment, his ribs collapsed and he spat out a mouthful of blood as he was sent flying backwards!

However, Ash Murder was the one who was surprised by his fist's damaging effects. He thought that his fist strike would tear Lin Ming apart, and yet it only caused him to vomit blood?

When his fist struck Lin Ming's body, Ash Murder felt like he had struck an ancient bronze bell that had been refined for an extremely long period of time, making his fist shake to the point of pain!

Even he didn't possess such a bodily intensity; this was simply incredible!

He was a half-step Empyrean who also specialized in body transformation and Lin Ming was only an early Divine Lord powerhouse who took the body transformation as his subclass of martial arts. When comparing the both of them, how could there be any comparison at all?

"What a durable mortal body, this boy must have had some strange fortuitous encounter!"

Ash Murder was inexplicably shocked as Lin Ming crashed into the black stone altar. Although Lin Ming was coughing up blood his life force remained as vibrant and blazing as before, without seeming as if it would die down the least bit. It could even be said that his wounds weren't heavy at all.

"This is impossible!"

Ash Murder was completely dumbfounded. This fist strike had come after he burnt his blood essence and yet he hadn't been able

to kill Lin Ming with it. In fact, he hadn't even been able to severely wound him!

Moreover, what shocked Ash Murder the most was that when Lin Ming was sent flying backwards, he didn't touch any death zones at all. Instead, he safely landed on the black stone altar, without triggering any traps. Besides the shaking wounds he had received he was relatively fine.

How could this be such a coincidence!?

Just as Ash Murder thought of this 'coincidence', he felt his entire body go cold as if he were dropped into an icy lake.

Something was wrong!

This wasn't a coincidence at all, but a path that Lin Ming had already calculated when he was sent flying backwards!

The speed Lin Ming rushed forwards with as well as the angle of collision was already calculated well in advance. Thus why he didn't touch any death zone runes.

This also meant that Lin Ming had intentionally been struck by him. From the start, he had never imagined that his attack would work out, but was planning on being struck instead. Just why would he do such a thing!?

An intense feeling of unrest surged in Ash Murder's heart. He turned around to look at his own Sacred Soul Primal Spirit!

But the moment Ash Murder turned around, seven or eight iron-armored spectral soldiers already rushed towards him from behind. They grasped their ghostly sabers and dark spears, striking at him!

However, from between the gaps of these iron-armored spectral soldiers, Ash Murder was clearly able to see another 'Lin Ming' flying towards his Sacred Soul Primal Spirit!

This Lin Ming was wrapped in thunder and flames, a deep red

long spear in his hands. A terrifying vortex of energy swirled around the spear point, drawing in all the origin energy within Bai Qi's tomb. This was the black hole seed!

At this moment, Lin Ming had used his strongest strike, gathering the power of essence, energy, and divine into one. He used the Gate of Life to burn his blood essence and fused the power of thunder and fire heavenly tribulation into a soul attack. The Eight Inner Hidden Gates and Heretical God Force were released to the limit. Underneath his strongest state, he struck out with the Divine Seal Art's Eternal Darkness!

“No!”

As Ash Murder saw this happen, his eyes widened so much that blood flowed out!

However, with the iron-armored spectral soldiers blocking him, there was no way for Ash Murder to stop Lin Ming. He could only watch helplessly on as all of this occurred!

“How is this possible!?”

Ash Murder roared out in unwillingness. At this time, seven or eight spectral weapons slashed out towards him, not giving him any time to attend to other matters!

Time seemed to come to a standstill.

Whether it was the ghostly weapons that were swinging at him or Lin Ming who was attacking with his strongest strike, everything became extremely slow...

Ash Murder felt as if all the strength in his body was being sucked out. He grit his teeth and raised his claws that were dripping with blood, and then fired into the group of iron-armored spectral soldiers.

“Get out of my way!”

Two iron-armored spectral soldiers bore the brunt of Ash

Murder's attack and were swept away, their necks broken. But at this time, a ghostly spear and saber stabbed into his body.

Beneath the impact of this tremendous strength, Ash Murder's organs were twisted to pieces. The pitch black ghostly spear forcefully punctured through Ash Murder's body and came through the other side, carrying with it a rain of blood!

At the same time, the black hole seed atop Lin Ming's spear point burst out with a black brilliance. In that moment, it was like a black sun had risen within this sealed off hall!

The Sacred Soul Primal Spirit wasn't without intelligence. Even though it was severely wounded, it still counterattacked Lin Ming. Its human-faced beast body spread its tattered wings and plunged towards Lin Ming.

However, Lin Ming's attack was too sudden and his methods too ruthless. At his first strike, he released the limit of his strength and had even burnt his blood essence. As he collided with the Sacred Soul Primal Spirit, a dreadful detonation erupted.

Energy brutally surged outwards. Shockwaves of energy spread out like countless sabers. The Sacred Soul Primal Spirit that was already completely spent of energy was instantly shattered by Lin Ming's strike!

However, Lin Ming was caught up in this wild explosion. He was sent flying away like a ragdoll!

As Lin Ming flew backwards, he revolved the Space Laws to avoid the killing zone dao patterns.

“Ji Xian'er!”

Lin Ming shouted out. Xiao Moxian had already been waiting in advance. She revolved Primordius Heavenly Palace's grand array formation according to Lin Ming's direction, commanding it to receive him within it.

Bang!

Just as Lin Ming was about to crash into Primordius Heavenly Palace, a gray light shout out and wrapped around him. In the next moment, Lin Ming felt himself tumbling into a soft form as an enchanting scent filled his senses.

In the final moment, Xiao Moxian had caught Lin Ming. After being struck by those energy shockwaves and now being caught in the embrace of a beautiful young woman, Lin Ming felt much better than before and his nerves even relaxed a bit.

He had succeeded!

Underneath the gaze of a half-step Empyrean powerhouse, had had sneak attacked the Sacred Soul Primal Spirit and had succeeded in doing so!

This had been an extremely risky plan. Lin Ming was far from being Ash Murder's match. If Ash Murder grabbed onto him, he would have suffered the fate of instant and immediate death.

Bang!

Ash Murder's bloodied body fell onto the ground. Two cruel weapons were thrust into his chest and stomach. Not too far away, the Sacred Soul Primal Spirit had already been exploded into pieces by Lin Ming!

In such a condition, the Sacred Soul Primal Spirit had fallen into an everlasting sleep. Without a transcendent divine miracle pill it would be impossible to awaken it. And at this time, Ash Murder himself was a lamp without oil; his hopes of leaving this hellish place had now become extremely slim!

Without the Sacred Soul Primal Spirit it was impossible for him to have any free time to attack the space barrier. Moreover, Ash Murder was no longer able to resist the attacks of the remaining spectral soldiers.

He looked towards the direction of Primordius Heavenly Palace, his eyes blazing with hatred and despair.

In this battle, every choice Lin Ming made had been upon the precipice of life or death! In this battle, he had faced an enemy over ten times stronger than he was but had used the array formation here as well as all sorts of guerilla tactics to instead kill those who had come here to kill him!

Especially in this final strike, he had calculated his escape route ahead of time, had lured the tiger out of the cave, and had then used diversionary tactics to strike down Ash Murder's last hope!

To lose to such an opponent, to lose to a mere junior that was only several dozen years old with a Divine Lord cultivation, Ash Murder felt frustration and depression fill his heart.

At the start he had indeed underestimated his enemy, but later, he had lost even after he dropped any contempt he had.

Ash Murder looked towards the black stone altar. The 'Lin Ming' that was struck by him had already shakily stood up. This Lin Ming looked at him, a hint of pity in his eyes. Then, this Lin Ming flew towards Primordius Heavenly Palace.

At this time, Ash Murder was no longer capable of stopping him.

Up until now he still couldn't understand why there were two Lin Mings. Based upon the manners and movements of these two Lin Mings, it was impossible for one to be a puppet. If so, it could only be an avatar!

How could Lin Ming have such a powerful avatar?

"Hah - !"

The array formation of Primordius Heavenly Palace revolved once more. Then, another Lin Ming rushed in!

This Lin Ming was not the Lin Ming that was being held by Xiao Moxian. But, there wasn't any difference in their auras. It was only that this new Lin Ming was holding not the Phoenix Blood Spear, but a red spirit artifact that appeared similar.

Just then, this Lin Ming had been the one to withstand the frontal attack of Ash Murder's fist. This Lin Ming's chest had been pounded in by Ash Murder's strike, and he had even spat out blood and had his organs break apart.

Even so, his life force remained as vibrant as before despite his combat strength having dropped by a great deal.

As Xiao Moxian saw this new Lin Ming appear, she shouted out in praise. "Fierce! Too fierce! A mortal body equal to the Saint Lord realm was able to receive the frontal strike of a half-step Empyrean and only be severely wounded! Moreover, this wound is..."

Xiao Moxian looked towards the chest of the new Lin Ming. The muscles of his chest were slowly creeping together, visibly regenerating!

Such a terrifying defensive ability and such a terrifying resiliency, this was something that not even Xiao Moxian with her half God Beast body could hold a candle to!

"This is indeed worthy of being the Essence Spirit Embryo Stone. I must say Lin Ming, your true self is too pitiful, you're so much worse than your avatar!"

Lin Ming ruefully smiled, "How can I possibly compare with him? The life that is bred from an Essence Spirit Embryo Stone is no worse than a God Beast's body to begin with. And not just that, but even if you ignore perception, his mortal body was similar to yours from the start, and in addition, he has been nourished by the Asura Road Master's God Beast Tomb array formation for billions of years! In terms of the intensity of his mortal body, he is far superior to you and me!"

In the bronze temple, after Lin Ming had divided a portion of his soul to occupy the Essence Spirit Embryo Stone, this Essence Spirit Embryo Stone had become eternally marked by Lin Ming's soul. Like this, his facial appearance, his limbs, his hair, his bloodline, everything was completely similar to Lin Ming.

His energy was inherited from Lin Ming and his cultivation realm was also similar to Lin Ming's. It could only be said that this Essence Spirit Embryo Stone was a perfect clone of Lin Ming.

The only difference was that this Essence Spirit Embryo Stone was focused in mortal body intensity and the body transformation system; it had no combat strength in the essence gathering system.

With this sort of essence spirit avatar, Lin Ming's combat capabilities had more than doubled. It was only because of this avatar's formidable defensive abilities that Lin Ming dared distract Ash Murder to launch a sneak attack.

"Awesome! Doesn't this avatar have two more seals that aren't undone yet? If you undo those seals, just how strong will it become? It's truly worthy of being called the Asura Road Master's masterpiece. How could any inheritance that he left behind be bad? Otherwise, he'd probably be too ashamed to put it out."

Xiao Moxian patted the strong mortal body of Lin Ming's avatar, grinning as she spoke.

Lin Ming's avatar had an intelligence of his own. But, because the avatar's soul was a part of Lin Ming's soul, this avatar's intelligence was the same as Lin Ming's. With Lin Ming in front of his avatar, he naturally didn't control it.

Chapter 1520 – Myriad Demon Karmic Wheel

Xiao Moxian was extremely keen on Lin Ming's avatar. She pinched the avatar's muscles, feeling that they were as solid as rubber. "Lin Ming, this avatar grows through the Myriad Demon Karmic Wheel, right?"

Xiao Moxian had also studied the first volume of the Asura Sutra. Although she hadn't refined her own avatar, she had many understandings into them.

"Yes, by absorbing the demonic power that filters through the Myriad Demon Karmic Wheel he can evolve, but that boundary of my avatar is limited by my own; it cannot be much higher than mine. At most, his cultivation will be one or two small boundaries higher. Perhaps, after I reach large success in the Asura Sutra First Volume he will be able to rise three small boundaries above me..."

Concerning the boundary of his avatar, Lin Ming couldn't be sure. After all, the avatar that the Asura Road Master refined in the past did not use the Essence Spirit Embryo Stone as the material, but he had instead divided his own flesh, blood, and soul, similar to the relationship between Frost Dream and Divine Dream.

"The Myriad Demon Karmic Wheel can hold 10,000 demons and have them undergo 10,000 samsaras of life and death. Starting from today, I will begin collecting 10,000 demonic souls for my karmic wheel. This Ash Murder will be the first one!"

The first soul Lin Ming chose was that of a half-step Emphyrean!

For those with low cultivation, weak strength, or pitiful talent, Lin Ming wouldn't even glance at them. Not even Mister Zhou from before was able to arouse Lin Ming's interest.

As Lin Ming looked out from Primordius Heavenly Palace, he saw Ash Murder engaged in fierce combat with the iron-armored

spectral soldiers.

His wings had been sliced off and his arms were shattered, with his entire body covered in blood. His bones and organs were revealed in open wounds; he was already well past his limit!

But in this condition, Ash Murder still hadn't died. Just how tenacious was he!

Kacha!

An iron-armored special soldier's head was blown apart by Ash Murder's fist. But at this time, five ghostly spears pierced towards Ash Murder's chest from three different angles.

Ash Murder grasped out his hands, forcefully grabbing hold of four spears. However, the last spear thrust into his chest!

Ash Murder's chest was already bloodied and gruesome, revealing his ribs. This ghostly spear thrust through the gap between the ribs, twisting apart Ash Murder's heart and lungs to pieces!

Puff!

Ash Murder coughed out a mouthful of blood. In the final throes of his life, he waved his hands, sending those four iron-armored spectral soldiers that he held the spears of flying far away.

Using this momentum, Ash Murder kicked the chest of the fifth iron-armored spectral soldier, impacting its chest so hard that it completely caved in.

At this time, Ash Murder felt a cold shadow cover his head. Before he could respond, he felt his head shake. With a loud bang, a vibrating force passed from his head to his ears, blowing out his eardrums and causing blood to leak out from his ears.

Like this, a black 10,000 jin hammer smashed into Ash Murder's head. At this moment, Ash Murder's eye lost focus. He felt the entire world blur, everything seeming to fade far away from him...

He fell to his knees, the blood leaking from his head covering his eyes. This was also the final moment of Ash Murder's storied life. He never imagined that he, with his half-step Empyrean cultivation, who had lived a revered life, would actually be played to death by a Divine Lord junior in the end.

What a joke.

He looked towards the direction of Primordius Heavenly Palace. His consciousness began to fade away...

Ash Murder died. A half-step Empyrean had died in Bai Qi's tomb, underneath the assault of the grand array formation here and Lin Ming's planning.

108 iron-armored spectral soldiers. Of them, 52 had been destroyed by Ash Murder. Now, only slightly more than half were left.

From this alone, one could see just how terrifyingly strong a half-step Empyrean was.

As Ash Murder died, the iron-armored spectral soldier array formation also calmed down. Many of the iron-armored spectral soldiers returned to their statue-like state. In this battle, the array formation had consumed far too much energy. If this grand array formation was said to be able to persist for several billion more years before this, now it could only last for several hundred million more years and it would also be much weaker than it was originally.

"You stay inside. I'm going out to take a look." Lin Ming said to Xiao Moxian within Primordius Heavenly Palace.

Xiao Moxian pursed her lips, but she didn't argue with Lin Ming. There were layers upon layers of dangers in Bai Qi's tomb, and with her current strength she was simply far too weak to go out right now.

Lin Ming slowly floated out from Primordius Heavenly Palace,

landing on the black stone altar. He looked towards the characters that were carved onto the black stone altar, 'Blue Throne Bai Qi', and deeply bowed, gripping his fists together. "Senior Bai Qi, this junior was helplessly forced today, thus I was only able to lure the enemy here to engage in a life or death battle. I hadn't known before that this was Senior's tomb, so I apologize for any offense that I committed. Within a thousand years, junior will surely reenter this land and repair this array formation for Senior so that it is even stronger than before and Senior may rest in peace for billions of years more."

Lin Ming didn't know why Blue Throne Bai Qi was buried here. In the end, he could only say that it was his own fault for having disturbed Bai Qi's tomb. The only way he could compensate for this was to repair the array formation in the future.

"Unfortunately, I have no idea what Senior Bai Qi's last wish was, otherwise I could have helped him accomplish it."

This time, Bai Qi could have been said to have given Lin Ming a life saving grace. With Lin Ming's personality, he didn't like owing favors to anyone.

After bowing to Bai Qi, Lin Ming turned to Ash Murder. He didn't walk over first but instead used his avatar to investigate. After making sure that Ash Murder was completely dead, only then did he walk over himself.

Lin Ming had thoroughly and completely won this battle.

At this time, Lin Ming seemed to remember something. A playful smile graced his lips. His avatar lifted up his foot and then stomped down, brutally crushing Ash Murder's left hand.

Kacha!

With a loud sound, Ash Murder's hand was pressed into the ground. And on Ash Murder's middle finger, the spatial ring that had lost the protection of its master's energy exploded into pieces.

After the spatial ring exploded into pieces, a chaotic flow of space energy surged outwards. A massive amount of pills, weapons, armor, and talismans were thrown out. With a miserable cry, a distressed saint youth was flung out too.

This youth's clothes were torn up, his body was covered in blood and his chest was caved in. His injuries were extremely heavy. Although he was able to rely on his powerful mortal body to slowly restore himself, he hadn't been able to recover much. He only had 10-20% of his original combat strength remaining.

This saint youth was Imperial Prince Naqi!

At the start of the battle, Imperial Prince Naqi had been extremely wounded in his collision with Lin Ming. Afterwards, Lin Ming had followed up his attack, wanting to sever Naqi's life. But just as Lin Ming was about to do so, Ash Murder had stuck his hand in and rescued Naqi, placing Naqi into his spatial ring.

Now that Ash Murder had died, Naqi naturally lost his protection.

Naqi's lips leaked blood. He had wounds added atop his previous wounds. Within the spatial ring, he had been meditating, restoring himself. But then with the sudden rupture of the spatial ring, a ruinous space storm had formed and sucked him in. If Naqi was in his peak condition then a space storm of this degree wouldn't have been anything to him. But Naqi had been in deep meditation to recover from his wounds. He should have had someone guarding him so that no one was able to disturb him, and now that he was swept into the space storm he actually suffered a grievous backlash.

He had no idea what had happened outside. After Naqi entered the spatial ring he had completely invested his focus into meditating, wanting to restore himself just that much faster. Only then would he be safe again. But now, he had been tossed out by Lin Ming onto the floor, unable to even tell what direction was

what.

“Lin Ming, you little bastard!”

Naqi reflexively jumped up as he saw Lin Ming. He grasped his halberd and pointed it towards Lin Ming. Facing Lin Ming, his eyes gleamed with killing intent, his entire body on high alert.

But at this time, Naqi could see pity in Lin Ming’s eyes, like the mercy someone showed to their inferior. This sort of pity and faint contempt stoked a furious rage in Naqi’s heart.

“There is no need to look. They’ve all died. Moreover... you will also die.”

Lin Ming’s voice was indifferent, like the judgment of a death god.

“W-what!?” Naqi’s mind shook. He instantly used his sense to investigate the situation around him. Then, he saw a scene that caused his courage to crack.

He turned around and saw that just a step behind him was Ash Murder’s ruined body, leaking blood. Ash Murder’s bones were all shattered and his organs were a ruined mess. His corpse was covered with blood and all life had faded from his body.

Ash Murder’s empty eyes were still staring in the direction of Primordius Heavenly Palace, their lonely gaze filled with unwillingness and despair. He had died with everlasting regrets.

“M-mister Ash Murder!?”

Naqi’s heart shriveled as he saw Ash Murder’s corpse. He didn’t dare to believe, and was unable to believe, that the half-step Empyrean Ash Murder, someone far stronger than Mister Zhou, had died here and in such a miserable way.

As for Lin Ming, he was safely standing in front of him. Just how was this possible!?

For a time, Naqi’s entire body went icy cold, as if he had been

plunged into the nine nether abyss!

“Im... impossible!”

Naqi despaired. He looked towards Lin Ming, his body shaking. Lin Ming had actually managed to kill Ash Murder; this was simply unthinkable. And, Ash Murder was Naqi’s final pillar of hope. With Ash Murder dead, his fate could be imagined.

“You’re over. This will be your grave... or, perhaps your grave will be my Myriad Demon Karmic Wheel. Although your cultivation isn’t high, your talent is in the highest echelons of your race. That gives you the qualifications to enter my Myriad Demon Karmic Wheel!”

As Lin Ming spoke, his right hand drew a circle in the air. The energy path left behind by his fingers formed a spinning gray wheel. The wheel had images of countless demon phantoms, ghosts, and monsters filling it, their expressions filled with anger, hatred, pain, and cruelty. This gray wheel slashed down at Imperial Prince Naqi.

After listening to Lin Ming’s words and seeing this Myriad Demon Karmic Wheel, Naqi’s complexion completely changed. He immediately understood that Lin Ming wanted to seal his soul away within this Myriad Demon Karmic Wheel to strengthen his devil arts.

However, what was pitiful was that he didn’t have any ability to resist. Let alone the fact that he was severely wounded right now, even if he were in his peak condition he wouldn’t have any hope of defeating Lin Ming!

“You think you can seal my soul? You can keep on dreaming!”

Naqi’s eyes turned blood red. He was fully aware that once his soul was sucked into Lin Ming’s terrifying gray wheel, he would be forever enslaved by Lin Ming, his soul never finding peace. This was a fate countless times more miserable than death. He would

rather die than be sucked into Lin Ming's grand array!

Chapter 1521 – Crisis

“Lin Ming, let’s die together!”

Naqi crazily shouted. He was also a ruthless and decisive individual. He clearly knew he wasn’t Lin Ming’s match and chose a suicidal attack. In that moment, all of the energy within his body erupted as he rushed towards Lin Ming; he wanted to blow up all of his astral essence!

Naqi was also well aware that even if he exploded his body, it still wouldn’t be possible to kill Lin Ming. But, as long as he caused severe wounds to Lin Ming that was more than enough, because in this absolute killing zone, there was a chance Lin Ming could die if he was injured so deeply!

To cause heavy wounds to Lin Ming with his own death, this was 10,000 times better than having his soul sealed in the Myriad Demon Karmic Wheel.

Lin Ming wasn’t surprised to see this at all. He sneered, withdrawing at the same time. His fingers flashed as he formed tens of thousands of gray seals.

As these seals appeared, the surrounding space and time began to distort. Even light was swallowed into these seals. Each of these seals that Lin Ming formed was a miniature black hole.

“Divine Seal Art – God Forbidding Seal!”

The Divine Seal Art was said to possess the ability to seal away all of existence; naturally, sealing away astral essence was nothing at all. In the Divine Realm First Martial Meeting, the Divine Sea realm Lin Ming had been able to break through Frost Dream’s Dreamsoul Immortal Melody by using the God Forbidding Seals.

Woosh! Woosh! Woosh!

These seals flew towards the wounded Naqi like a hail of arrows, sinking into his body. At that moment, Naqi felt as if demonic

leeches crawled within his body. These leeches sucked his blood, absorbing his astral essence and flesh and blood essence.

“Myriad Demon Karmic Wheel!”

Lin Ming thrust his right palm forwards and the gray demon wheel was pushed forwards by him. It covered Naqi like a cruel and hungry maw.

“No!”

Naqi miserably cried out, struggling with all his strength. However, with his entire body sealed by the God Forbidding Seals, no matter what he tried, he still couldn't revolve his astral essence or bodily strength.

Suicide was not possible and neither was escape. At this time, Naqi finally deeply understood what it meant to feel fear and powerlessness.

At this time, Naqi felt a terrifying demonic power cover his body, wanting to forcefully pull out his soul.

The agonizing pain of having his body and soul split apart struck him like a tide. This horrifying feeling was like being slowly skinned alive! The pain was indescribable!

Naqi cried out, his screams so loud they split his throat and lungs. With a light cracking sound, his soul was torn away from his body, turning into a wisp of gray light that submerged into the Myriad Demon Karmic Wheel. Thus, the Myriad Demon Karmic Wheel gained its first demon soul.

Lin Ming waved his hand and took away the God Forbidding Seals from Naqi's body. Then, all of Naqi's origin energy and blood energy was sucked out by the Essence Spirit Embryo Stone.

In just a moment, Naqi's originally perfectly tempered body lost all of its blood vitality, nearly turning into a mortal body.

Like this, an Imperial Prince, a proud genius of his generation,

had died a tragic death in God Burying Ridge. He had been struck down by Lin Ming and even his soul had devolved into a ghost slave!

After the Essence Spirit Embryo Stone sucked Naqi's bodily strength, its blood energy became increasingly vibrant. The collapsed chest of that avatar began to wriggle around, clearly regenerating at an increased speed.

Lin Ming looked at the wounds of the Essence Spirit Embryo Stone and estimated that it would fully recover in an incense stick of time. This sort of regenerative ability was really far too abnormal.

Unfortunately, the Essence Spirit Embryo Stone wasn't able to grow quickly. Even though it had swallowed the massive amount of blood energy within Naqi, the energy it contained still didn't grow by much.

After swallowing up Naqi's origin energy, Lin Ming repeated this process and had the Essence Spirit Embryo Stone swallow Ash Murder's origin energy.

Ash Murder's essence energy was dozens of times more formidable than Naqi's. After the Essence Spirit Embryo Stone swallowed up this essence energy, the wounds on his body continued to squirm around before fully recovering in several breaths of time.

"It's over!"

Lin Ming let out a long sigh of relief. Just as he was about to return to Primordius Heavenly Palace, a strange premonition emerged in his heart. This dangerous premonition came from the Essence Spirit Embryo Stone!

"What!?"

Lin Ming's entire body went cold. At this time, where could this danger have come from?

Lin Ming didn't know what this danger was. Without thinking further, he flew straight towards Primordius Heavenly Palace at max speed. As long as he entered Primordius Heavenly Palace then he would be temporarily safe. This was the best strategy to deal with the current situation.

But at this moment, a corpse that was lying on the ground suddenly leapt upwards!

This corpse had been that of Ash Murder's follower!

There had been a total of four people in Ash Murder's group. They were Ash Murder, Naqi, Manyu, as well as some common-seeming follower who only had a mere Saint Lord realm cultivation. When Lin Ming first ambushed them, this follower had been sucked into the storm and died afterwards. Not even Lin Ming had kept track of him afterwards!

Even the two puppets that Ash Murder put forth as well as his silver blue wolf contract beast seemed far more important than this follower!

But now, this follower leapt up, plunging towards Lin Ming like a demonic fiend!

"How is this possible!?"

Lin Ming was bewildered. This torn corpse, could Ash Murder have seized its body?

This was Lin Ming's first thought, however, he had no time to continue thinking of what was happening. He had to immediately respond!

This corpse that rushed towards him seemed as if it only had a Saint Lord realm cultivation, but Lin Ming absolutely would not believe this. If this corpse had been able to hide from his sense and hide from the killing array in Bai Qi's tomb, then it was absolutely a terrifying character!

Without thinking, the Essence Spirit Embryo Stone rushed

towards this corpse like a cheetah. At the same time, Lin Ming himself hurtled towards Primordius Heavenly Palace!

Primordius Heavenly Palace was only 100 feet away. With Lin Ming's speed, this was less than the blink of an eye!

However, at this time, a voice echoed in his mind.

"It's too late! Today is the day you die!"

This voice was somewhat familiar. Lin Ming's hands and feet immediately turned cold, his entire body drenched in sweat.

Tian Mingzi!?

Bang!

With a loud explosion, Lin Ming solidly crashed into an enchantment, feeling as if his skeleton would come apart. In that brief moment just now, Tian Mingzi had laid down an enchantment, isolating Lin Ming from Primordius Heavenly Palace!

Tian Mingzi knew how to hit Lin Ming where it hurt. He had already calculated Lin Ming's weakness. As long as Lin Ming couldn't return to Primordius Heavenly Palace then he could pinch him however he wished!

Peng!

With a loud ring, Tian Mingzi punched out, solidly striking the Essence Spirit Embryo Stone!

Lin Ming's avatar spat out a mouthful of blood and was sent flying backwards! Even though the Essence Spirit Embryo Stone was powerful, it still couldn't withstand a frontal collision with Tian Mingzi!

This was the strength of a Great World King!

In a sense, the extreme talent Tian Mingzi was not necessarily any weaker than the half-step Empyrean Ash Murder!

Lin Ming felt a cold chill creep into his chest. He was completely dumbfounded by Tian Mingzi's sudden appearance!

“This person... has been waiting here for a long time already, waiting for his opportunity. This is really what they mean by the praying mantis stalking the cicada, while ignoring the sparrow from behind!”

Lin Ming immediately understood what was happening. Tian Mingzi used some skillful arcane technique to change his appearance into that of the follower to mix in with Imperial Prince Naqi's group. This was something that neither Naqi nor Ash Murder was aware of. It was likely that the true follower had long since been killed off by him!

“The one who can change their appearance isn't just you!” Tian Mingzi coldly sneered.

When Lin Ming was at the Divine Transformation realm, he had used the Bodily Rebirth Technique to change his appearance and was even able to conceal his identity from the World King realm Mister Zhou. Then, it wasn't strange for Tian Mingzi with his Great World King strength to conceal the truth from the half-step Empyrean Ash Murder.

Tian Mingzi had used this appearance changing technique to wait for a chance to launch a sneak attack. When Lin Ming and Ash Murder critically wounded each other, he would launch his fatal life reaping strike!

He chose to do this because he really feared Lin Ming's methods too much. And in fact, what happened had proved that his choice had been correct. Otherwise, the first to die would have been Tian Mingzi and not Ash Murder.

“Your avatar is quite good; did you obtain it in Tragic Death Valley? Moreover, there is that dwelling you hide in, that is also a top grade Empyrean spirit treasure. What a pity, what a pity. You have nowhere else to go now. Without your dwelling you are like a

mouse without a hiding place. I can mess with you as I please!”

Tian Mingzi moved towards Lin Ming, one step at a time. After he removed his camouflage, he didn't launch an attack first. Rather, he set up an enchantment to separate Lin Ming from Primordius Heavenly Palace. As long as Lin Ming wasn't able to return to Primordius Heavenly Palace then Lin Ming would lose any shelter he had and have no strength to resist him!

“Your methods... are praiseworthy!”

Lin Ming's breath slowed down and his complexion turned dark and grim. He already knew that Tian Mingzi was a sinister and cunning individual. With his mortal commoner background, he began as an outer court disciple of the Verdant Feather Holy Lands, and slowly crawled his way upwards to become an inner court disciple, core disciple, and finally became the one who overthrew the Verdant Feather Holy Lands, even killing the Verdant Feather Holy Lands' old Great World King. For him to arrive at this step by himself, besides having his own destiny and lucky chances, he also had to have spectacular methods of his own!

Today, Lin Ming had finally experienced them.

Lin Ming had thought it was strange from the start. Out of all the people who had hunted him down to this place, only Tian Mingzi had placed a tracking mark on him. Yet, he was also the only one who hadn't arrived. For Tian Mingzi, this didn't seem to make sense at all.

So, it seemed as if he had already arrived but he had simply been waiting for his chance all along! Lin Ming thought that he was the winner, but he was made into a fool by Tian Mingzi!

Chapter 1522 – To Seek Survival In The Face Of Death

Tian Mingzi slowly extracted a long sword from his spatial ring. This sword was black with a narrow blade. It was eight feet long and engraved with images of cruel and savage demons.

This was not the first time that Lin Ming had seen this sword. Tian Mingzi's weapon was a strange sword variation, not much shorter than his Phoenix Blood Spear.

With Tian Mingzi's strength in combination with this strange sword, the strength he could display in battle was hard to imagine.

"Although your strength is nothing compared to mine, I will do everything in my power to kill you and not give you the tiniest chance to resist!" Tian Mingzi said, his killing intent completely locked onto Lin Ming. He slowly advanced; each step he took was on a life zone dao pattern.

While pretending to be dead in Bai Qi's tomb, Tian Mingzi carefully memorized where Lin Ming stepped. He knew where safety was and where danger was.

As long as he didn't step on a death zone dao pattern then the grand array formation in Bai Qi's tomb would not activate.

Seeing Tian Mingzi perfectly avoid the death zone dao patterns, Lin Ming's complexion was solemn. His complete divine sense radiated outward as numerous possibilities were calculated in his mind.

Today, he would face a second life or death crisis!

Growing to this point, Lin Ming had faced countless life or death crises! Forgetting the past, just after entering God Burying Ridge, Lin Ming had faced numerous dangers on the edge of death. Just a single step and he would have tumbled down beyond redemption!

After experiencing all these dangers, this caused Lin Ming to be even calmer the more dangerously critical a situation was!

Facing Tian Mingzi head on, Lin Ming could come up with no strategy that allowed him to live. This was an enemy that was two and a half large boundaries higher than him. At most, Lin Ming could jump two large boundaries to barely contend with someone.

The further a martial artist went in their cultivation, the greater the disparity was. This was why early on Lin Ming was able to jump two and a half large boundaries to fight, but now, even after experiencing innumerable lucky chances and repeated fortuitous encounters, he could only jump two boundaries to fight.

“Tell me your secrets. I know that you have some heaven-shaking secret on your body. If you tell me then I will let you die in peace. If you don’t tell me, then I will break your hands and feet, waste away your meridians, suck out your blood energy, crack open your bones, and turn you into a pile of rotten meat. I will make it so that you won’t even have the strength to resist mortals. Then, I will tear out your soul and obtain your secrets all the same, the only difference being that it is a little bit more troublesome for me. But for you, the pain you will experience will be indescribable.”

As Tian Mingzi spoke, his aura reached the limit!

As for Lin Ming, at this time he was still calculating the only possibility to escape from this disaster!

Tian Mingzi frowned. “You really are courting death. Although there is no hope for you to escape, I won’t give you any time to think about it!”

As Tian Mingzi spoke, he rushed forwards like an ancient vicious beast, directly impacting towards Lin Ming!

In these years, Tian Mingzi and Lin Ming hadn’t fought many times. But each time Tian Mingzi thought Lin Ming had no path to escape, Lin Ming was always able to flee to the heavens. This was

the case at the Sky Spill Continent and also the case at Tragic Death Valley.

Now, in Bai Qi's tomb, no matter how much Tian Mingzi was assured in his plan, he wouldn't give Lin Ming any chance to think about escaping!

As Tian Mingzi attacked, Lin Ming also moved. Lin Ming revolved his true essence, pouring all of it into the Phoenix Blood Spear. Then, Lin Ming reversed his body, releasing the Eight Inner Hidden Gates to the extreme. A billion jins of strength erupted and Lin Ming threw the Phoenix Blood Spear straight out!

Woosh!

The Phoenix Blood Spear shot forwards like a meteor as it tore through the void. However, the direction of the attack was not towards Tian Mingzi, but towards an absolute death zone rune atop Bai Qi's grave!

At this moment, Lin Ming used the Phoenix Blood Spear as the weapon to attack an absolute death zone rune.

Once this absolute death zone rune was activated, terrifying black light would rain down from the heavens, directly attacking the person who touched it. Even if Lin Ming had thrown the Phoenix Blood Spear and hadn't even touched this death zone rune, he still wouldn't be an exception!

Woosh! Woosh! Woosh!

At that moment, several hundred beams of black divine light shot towards Lin Ming like hundreds of divine swords!

And at this time, Tian Mingzi had arrived just in front of Lin Ming; he too had to face the attack of the black divine lights!

For a time, Tian Mingzi's complexion changed. He never imagined that Lin Ming would be so ruthless. The moment that Tian Mingzi attacked, Lin Ming had also moved against the death zone runes, making it so that both of them fell into danger!

However, if Lin Ming wanted to use this method to kill Tian Mingzi then he was far too naïve. Lin Ming was the focus of this attack and Tian Mingzi was only collateral damage.

This attack of divine light was far too fierce and brutal without any angle to dodge. Even for Mister Zhou and Ash Murder, when they touched these absolute killing zone runes, they still couldn't dodge and had to face these black lights head on!

“This brat, is he thinking of committing suicide!”

Tian Mingzi's pupils shrank. In that instant he could only forcefully withdraw his attack and retreat, stimulating all the true essence within his body to resist that black divine light!

With Tian Mingzi's strength, it was impossible for this black divine light that had been weakened over billions of years to easily kill him. Even so, he had to resist this black divine light with all his strength. If he tried to exterminate Lin Ming underneath the deluge of this black divine light then he too would die without a grave here.

Tian Mingzi could resist the attack of divine light several times, but Lin Ming was in a far worse position. Once he was struck by this black divine light, then whether it was his protective true essence or his mortal body defensive capabilities that far surpassed other martial artists of the same step, they would all be torn apart like the thinnest pieces of paper!

In that moment, Lin Ming's complexion was as calm and cold as a glacier. Seeing these hundreds of black divine lights shoot at him, their trajectories all reflected within his eyes.

“Asura Heavenly Dao!”

Lin Ming cried out, his body erupting with energy once more. In front of him, the phantom of the Myriad Demon Karmic Wheel appeared again. He wasn't thinking to use this to block the black divine light, but the black divine light still came from the same

origin: the Asura Heavenly Dao. Because of this, the black light was also similarly restrained by the Asura Heavenly Dao Laws. This was a point that Lin Ming clearly understood after training in the first volume of the Asura Sutra.

In this hopeless situation, Lin Ming had to bet his life on a single move. With the Asura Heavenly Dao, he had to restrain the black divine light, forcefully opening up a slim chance of survival in the barrage of light that had no dead angles.

Even though Lin Ming had already cultivated the Asura Sutra to the degree that it would give him this chance, he still didn't fully grasp whether or not he could truly accomplish this.

“Open!”

Lin Ming roared. The Heretical God Force erupted to its limits, and the Gate of Life burned with blood essence. The Myriad Demon Karmic Wheel was shot forth with all his strength!

In that moment, the attack trajectory of the black divine lights slightly shifted. Although this shift didn't seem worthy of mention at all, it was the difference between life and death for Lin Ming!

Lin Ming's pupils contracted. His body twisted at an unbelievable angle. At this moment he was like a slippery fish, shuttling back and forth through the beams of black divine light!

“What!?”

Not too far away, Tian Mingzi felt his mind shake as he saw all of this happen. This was because as the one who had stirred up the absolute death zone dao pattern, Lin Ming had to withstand an onslaught of black divine light that was ten times worse than what he had experienced. Moreover, these black lights left no paths open for dodging. If Tian Mingzi were the one placed in this hopeless situation, even he wouldn't be able to avoid the black divine lights. He would have to forcefully withstand three or four black divine lights, and although he wouldn't die, he would still be

injured.

Tian Mingzi originally thought that Lin Ming would undoubtedly die in this situation. However, he never imagined that Lin Ming would be able to dodge these black divine lights!

How was this possible!?

“Break again!”

Just as Lin Ming was about to run through the net of black divine lights, he punched out his fists, sending a current of true essence smashing into a second death zone rune. This action caused Tian Mingzi to be thoroughly shocked.

Lin Ming hadn't even yet fully dodged the divine lights from the first absolute death zone rune, but he had now attacked a second one! He was insane!

Two nets of divine light gathered together. This terrifying attack was life-threatening even to someone like Tian Mingzi. Even so, Lin Ming placed himself in the midst of this danger!

From the inconceivable way Lin Ming had dodged just now, Tian Mingzi could confirm that Lin Ming struck the death zone dao patterns not to kill himself but to seek a road to survival in the face of death!

But, Tian Mingzi didn't have time to think just what road to survival Lin Ming had found. With the net of black divine lights gathered around Lin Ming, Tian Mingzi couldn't approach him right now. But, as soon as those black divine lights ended, Lin Ming would die.

Hu - ! Hu - ! Hu - !

The hundreds of black divine lights from the second absolute death zone rune fell down on Lin Ming in a horrifying deluge.

These black divine lights superimposed on those from the first wave, becoming even more dense and dangerous!

At this time, Lin Ming's heart was calm and still to the extreme. The paths of the divine lights were all reflected in his eyes as he revolved his divine sense to its utter limit. He flushed right and left, finally closing in on Tian Mingzi's enchantment.

As Tian Mingzi saw this, his entire body shook. He finally understood just what Lin Ming was planning. Lin Ming was planning to use himself as the lure to guide those black divine lights into attacking his enchantment. As long as the enchantment was broken, Lin Ming would be able to return to Primordius Heavenly Palace!

And now, Tian Mingzi had to face the absolute killing array in Bai Qi's tomb that had been activated by Lin Ming!

Even so, a good half of this array formation had been broken by Ash Murder. Of the original 108 iron-armored spectral soldiers, around half of them had been destroyed and the remaining half wasn't too great a threat to Tian Mingzi. But, Tian Mingzi wasn't willing to let Lin Ming's plan succeed because he had a premonition that once Lin Ming returned to Primordius Heavenly Palace and was given a chance to catch his breath, he would inevitably produce some unbelievable method again and again to deal with him. In the end, Tian Mingzi might even be the one played to death!

"Lin Ming, I won't let you!"

Finally, Tian Mingzi moved. Disregarding the threat of the black divine lights, he fired right into Lin Ming!

The enchantment that Tian Mingzi laid down blocked Lin Ming from returning to Primordius Heavenly Palace. With Lin Ming's strength, it was impossible for him to break past this barrier and Tian Mingzi wouldn't give him the chance to do so.

But now, Lin Ming was guiding these terrifying black divine lights, a force that could even kill World Kings. With a barrage of hundreds of black divine lights striking Tian Mingzi's

enchantment, it would be pierced through like paper!

“Myriad Demon Karmic Wheel!”

Lin Ming shouted out as he used the Asura Heavenly Dao a second time!

The first barrage of divine lights had yet to pass, and now with a second wave added on, Lin Ming had to use the Asura Heavenly Dao yet again. This placed a tremendous burden on his body!

“Open again!”

Lin Ming roared. All the blood vessels under his skin bulged out. With the Gate of Life, he burnt 10% of his blood essence!

Chapter 1523 – Lin Ming's Counterattack

Black light shot out and energy wildly raged about in the air. Beneath the cover of countless killing intents, Lin Ming tightened his protective true essence to the limit, rushing left and right without any defensive protections.

This was because Lin Ming was well aware that even if he stimulated his protective true essence to the limit, against this black light, any defense he summoned was no different from paper! If this was the case, then he might as well focus all of his concentration and true essence on the Asura Heavenly Dao!

Three beams of divine light that couldn't be avoided had their trajectory forcefully changed by Lin Ming. In that instant, Lin Ming became flexible as if he had no joints at all and passed through a narrow slit between those black lights at an inconceivable degree. But at this time, the fourth unavoidable beam of black light came shooting at him. Because Lin Ming had consumed too much strength too quickly, he simply wasn't able to deal with it. There was no way for him to avoid this!

Lin Ming's pupils shrank. He chose not to use his true essence to protect himself when withstanding this divine light because he knew that doing so was useless.

He twisted his body once more, allowing this black beam of light to pierce through his lower left abdomen.

This part of his body didn't have any vital zones. If his body had to be pierced somewhere, then having it pierced here was much better than his chest or head.

Puff!

In that moment, the black light easily punctured through Lin Ming's body. Lin Ming spat out a mouthful of blood, biting down on the tip of his tongue as he stimulated the Divine Mist Heart

Mantra. With this, his consciousness didn't flicker in the slightest, even with the severe pain that wracked his body.

Rumble rumble rumble!

The black divine lights that Lin Ming avoided fell down on Tian Mingzi's enchantment in waves. With the sound of a rolling thunderstorm, this barrier exploded like glass!

In that moment, Lin Ming didn't reveal any happiness at all. With his emotionless face, he calmly continued hurtling towards Primordius Heavenly Palace!

“Dream on!”

A voice struck Lin Ming's ear like a peal of thunder. Tian Mingzi had finally attacked!

Tian Mingzi shot into a place where the divine light was the sparsest. By revolving all the strength in his body, he forcefully withstood a beam of black light. Although this black divine light wasn't able to pierce his body, it still ravaged his back muscles, tearing them apart.

Tian Mingzi simply wasn't able to care about the wounds on his back. His sword cut forth and a black vortex appeared from thin air, “Heaven Absorbing Demon Art!”

In that moment, a dreadful suction force erupted like a tide, directly locking onto Lin Ming!

Because it was weakened by the black divine light and also because of the haste in which it was used, this Heaven Absorbing Demon Art wasn't even a tenth of Tian Mingzi's usual strength. However, when it locked onto the severely wounded Lin Ming, he still slowed down. Lin Ming was like a fly that fell into a giant spider web, his speed sharply plummeting!

The dragging force of the Heaven Absorbing Demon Art was simply far too strong. Lin Ming was unable to continue forwards.

“I’ll drain your blood dry!”

Tian Mingzi made a claw with his right hand and pulled it backwards. The terrifying suction force of the Heaven Absorbing Demon instantly shifted to Lin Ming’s lower abdomen where he had been pierced through. Tian Mingzi actually wanted to use his Heaven Absorbing Demon Art to suck out all of Lin Ming’s blood from his wound. From this move, one could see just how cruel and insidious Tian Mingzi’s methods were!

In that moment, Lin Ming’s body shook. He felt all of his blood vitality being gathered into his lower abdomen by that suction force, wanting to gush outwards. He grit his teeth, locking in his blood vitality with true essence.

Tian Mingzi’s eyes flashed with a grim light. His right hand tightened, as if he wanted to crumble something in his grasp.

Puff!

With a loud cracking sound, Lin Ming’s true essence lock was shattered by Tian Mingzi’s strength. A pillar of brilliant blood erupted from Lin Ming’s abdomen like a fountain!

Lin Ming’s lips trembled and his face began to whiten.

“Hahaha! Today is the day you die!” Tian Mingzi wildly laughed. He waved his hand and his black sword appeared in his grip. With the sound of howling wind, he hurtled towards Lin Ming!

With the strength of a Great World King and his true essence fused into his sword, this sword strike could even pierce through a celestial body. It was impossible for the wounded Lin Ming to resist it!

Moreover, Lin Ming’s movements were bound by the Heaven Absorbing Demon Art; it was impossible for him to defend!

The black sword came shooting towards Lin Ming’s heart. If it struck its target, Lin Ming would die here and now!

“You’re finished!”

Tian Mingzi maniacally grinned. It was like he could see the future where Lin Ming was slowly dismembered by his sword.

He had hunted Lin Ming down for a full ten years. This Lin Ming with his countless secrets had cost him a hand and also the foundation that he spent 50,000 years building. Now, Lin Ming would finally die at his hands today!

The keen sword whistled forwards. The distance of only several hundred feet passed by in a flash. Then, just as that sword was about to pierce through Lin Ming’s body, a shadow shot forwards like lightning, blocking Lin Ming from that black sword!

“Mm!?”

Tia Mingzi was startled, but his black sword had already struck that shadow!

With a loud ringing sound the black sword was deflected backwards. As for that shadow, it simply shook a little but didn’t receive any damage at all.

Tian Mingzi’s eyes focused. This shadow was only the size of a table; it was Lin Ming’s Primordius Heavenly Palace!

After the enchantment was shattered by the black divine lights, Lin Ming could fly to Primordius Heavenly Palace, and naturally, Primordius Heavenly Palace was able to fly towards him. But, the one temporarily controlling Primordius Heavenly Palace was not Lin Ming, but Xiao Moxian!

Xiao Moxian had already controlled Primordius Heavenly Palace once before, and now this was the second time. In a critical moment, she had used Primordius Heavenly Palace to block this fatal strike against Lin Ming!

“Damn it!”

Tian Mingzi wanted to attack once more, but at this moment, a

brilliant rainbow-hued beam shot out from Primordius Heavenly Palace, wrapping around and dragging in the severely wounded Lin Ming.

Hoh - !

Xiao Moxian flew up to grab Lin Ming. As she grabbed him, her hands were shaking slightly.

“Lin Ming, are you okay?”

Xiao Moxian’s breath caught in her throat, her voice trembling. When Lin Ming had been pierced through the abdomen by the black divine light and then had a fountain of his blood come gushing out when Tian Mingzi used the Heaven Absorbing Demon Art, she had felt her heart shrink.

“I’m... fine...”

Lin Ming’s complexion was pale and his lips were dry. Just now, almost 80% of his blood had been sucked out! He had also lost a great deal of his blood vitality.

“The blood you drew out of me, I will make you pay back this debt.”

Lin Ming grit his teeth, a thick killing intent shining in his eyes.

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“Just a little more, just a little more and I would have killed him, damn it all!”

Tian Mingzi was breathless with anger. He reached out his hand, wanting to call back his black sword. But at this time, he heard a rumbling behind him.

Tian Mingzi turned to see Lin Ming’s Essence Spirit Embryo Stone grab onto the Phoenix Blood Spear and come hurtling at him.

With the strength that Lin Ming’s avatar had, Tian Mingzi wasn’t scared of it at all. But, the crux was that behind Lin Ming’s

avatar, there were hundreds of black divine lights chasing him.

That explosive rumble just now was the Essence Spirit Embryo Stone actively attacking the death zone rune. It was deliberately drawing in black divine lights to attack Tian Mingzi!

That death zone rune was far too close to Lin Ming. Moreover, with the angle that Lin Ming had chosen, it was impossible for Tian Mingzi to avoid it!

Lin Ming's true self had already been severely wounded by Tian Mingzi and the black divine light. When his body was pierced through and a massive amount of his blood vitality was drawn out by the Heaven Absorbing Demon Art, Lin Ming's fighting will hadn't diminished in the least. Even though his true self had lost his combat strength, he still controlled his avatar to activate the black divine lights and calculate the best angle to attack Tian Mingzi.

His avatar would have to withstand the black divine light with Tian Mingzi. No one was going to emerge from this unscathed!

“What!?”

Tian Mingzi's complexion changed. He never imagined Lin Ming would be so ruthless. When he was on the verge of death, he had actually used just several breaths of time to come up with this plan and turn the tide of battle!

The black lights were imminent and threatening; there was no way for Tian Mingzi to evade!

Tian Mingzi clenched his jaw. “Lin Ming, only one of us can live beneath the heavens!”

He roared out, erupting his true essence to the limit. Demonic energy surged around him, forming a black protective shield.

He was well aware that he had to resist this strike by paying the lowest price possible. If he suffered devastating wounds from these black lights then he would absolutely fall into tremendous danger!

Chapter 1524 – Tragic

“Counterforce – Heaven Absorbing Demon Art!”

Tian Mingzi recklessly released the energy absorbed by the Heaven Absorbing Demon Art to withstand this strike!

And at this time, Lin Ming’s avatar came shooting towards Tian Mingzi without fear. Without any consideration for the black lights all around it, it wanted to attack Tian Mingzi!

Tian Mingzi’s complexion instantly turned ugly. He had personally witnessed Lin Ming’s avatar being punched in an all-out strike by a half-step Empyrean powerhouse, and yet it had only received injuries.

The defensive capabilities of this avatar were simply like those of a farm animal!

Just from this alone, Tian Mingzi knew that in a competition of defense, he couldn’t compete with this vicious beast in human form. In a situation that he couldn’t defend, there was no way he could resist the all-out attack of a half-step Empyrean.

Those with bare feet did not fear shoes with holes. This was only Lin Ming’s avatar, but the one defending was Tian Mingzi’s true self. To go all-out with his true self against an avatar, only an idiot would do something so stupid!

“Who cares if you attack me, I will block all attacks together!” Tian Mingzi’s eyes flashed with a grim light. In this moment, he stimulated his strength to the extreme!

The main threat to him was from those black divine lights. As for the attack of Lin Ming’s avatar, he simply didn’t care about it.

Bang!

Lin Ming’s avatar smashed its spear into Tian Mingzi’s black barrier. The terrifying mortal bodily strength of that avatar

erupted like a volcano!

Lin Ming's avatar specialized in body transformation and its mortal body was far superior to that of Lin Ming's true self. It was a God Beast Essence Spirit Embryo Stone. In the bronze temple, it had been refined over billions upon billions of years with the essence energy of 33 extreme God Beasts. In terms of how formidable its body was, this avatar far surpassed both Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian, and completely outclassed Imperial Prince Naqi. This was a grand masterpiece of the Asura Road Master; how could Naqi possibly compare with it?

Thus, this avatar's physical strength was almost 10 times stronger than Lin Ming's true self, reaching up to 10 billion jins!

Kacha!

The spear of Lin Ming's avatar pierced into Tian Mingzi's black barrier and actually caused a crack to appear in the surface!

Although only a tiny crack appeared, this meant that Tian Mingzi's barrier had greatly weakened. If he were to meet another powerful attack then his barrier would completely collapse.

“What!?”

At this moment, Tian Mingzi was completely panic-stricken!

He knew that Lin Ming's avatar was fierce, but he thought it was only its defensive capabilities. No matter what, he never imagined that its striking power would also be so terrifying. Disregarding the essence gathering system, disregarding the various Laws and martial skills, in terms of frontal impact ability alone, Lin Ming's avatar far surpassed his true self! If Lin Ming's true self was a mortal fighter then Lin Ming's avatar was a wild tiger! When facing off head to head, how could a mortal fighter compare to a tiger?

Seeing the black divine lights come shooting down, Tian Mingzi's eyes nearly popped out with rage. In that life or death moment he

bit down on his tongue and burnt his blood essence!

For Tian Mingzi who dreamed of breaking into the Empyrean realm, there was no need to mention how precious his blood essence was. Ten years ago, he had lost a hand to Lin Ming and now he was forced by Lin Ming to burn his blood essence. This was decision he only made as a last resort!

However, even though he burned his blood essence, Tian Mingzi didn't have enough time to use a defensive martial skill because the black divine lights had already arrived in front of him. Now, he could only use this black barrier that had a crack in it to withstand this attack!

Woosh!

Lin Ming's avatar had ruined Tian Mingzi's plans, forcing him to directly face the impact of these black divine lights.

Lin Ming definitely wouldn't block these black divine lights for Tian Mingzi. If the avatar had to withstand the attack then both of them would do so together!

"Ahhhh!"

Tian Mingzi wildly roared out, the anger blazing in his heart hot beyond imagination. It was clear that he was far stronger than Lin Ming and he had done everything in his power to kill him. Whether it was disguising himself as Ash Murder's follower, hiding away to sneak attack, isolating Lin Ming from Primordius Heavenly Palace with an enchantment, or drawing out Lin Ming's blood through his wound with the Heaven Absorbing Demon Art, everything Tian Mingzi did could be called desperately trying to kill Lin Ming no matter the cost. All of this was so that Lin Ming wouldn't have the tiniest sliver of hope to survive. But, the end result was that through all the twists and turns, he was forced once more by Lin Ming into a dangerous situation!

Bang!

Several hundred black lights solidly smashed into Tian Mingzi's barrier. The barrier that had been struck once already suddenly produced a massive fissure that raced down it before it shattered into pieces. Tian Mingzi coughed, vomiting out a mouthful of blood as he was sent flying away!

Ca!

As he was sent flying backwards, a black light pierced through his right shoulder, mincing his shoulder blade to pieces!

Feeling this severe pain in his shoulder, Tian Mingzi's complexion completely changed. To a Great World King, this sort of wound only needed a single day to regenerate. But in his current situation, this pierced shoulder would actually affect his combat strength, causing all sorts of serious consequences for him.

At this time, beside Tian Mingzi, Lin Ming's avatar was also struck by the raging river of black divine lights. The avatar was flushed away, distressed and gushing blood all over.

However, this avatar was extremely formidable. Even with such heavy damage, although its bones and muscles had been torn apart and its organs had been scrambled up, its body hadn't been pierced through. In terms of mortal bodily defense, Tian Mingzi was far from being able to compare with it.

Energy surged, wildly storming about. Tian Mingzi suppressed the harrowing pain in his shoulder to form a final shield of protective true essence to block the shockwaves of energy. Even so, a great deal of this energy broke into Tian Mingzi's body where it wildly rushed through his meridians!

Pa pa pa!

Tian Mingzi's blood vessels collapsed one after another, blood spraying from his body!

He crashed into the black stone altar. In the final moment, he barely managed to change his direction to avoid landing on

another death zone dao pattern. Luckily, Tian Mingzi had remembered where the majority of the death zone dao patterns were, otherwise if he were to strike another one now then he might have simply died here.

Lin Ming's avatar also crashed into the black stone altar, its entire body covered with blood.

Looking at the area where Tian Mingzi fell, Lin Ming's avatar darkly sighed. According to the angle of the black divine lights, Tian Mingzi should have fallen into another death zone dao pattern. But, Lin Ming hadn't placed much hope in this to begin with. He didn't think that the prudent and cautious Tian Mingzi would make such a low-level mistake.

Gritting his teeth, Lin Ming's avatar flashed away, flying straight towards Primordius Heavenly Palace!

Tian Mingzi saw Lin Ming's avatar escape, but didn't stop him at all.

His current condition was extremely bad so it would be hard to instantly create another enchantment, and even if he did, he might not be able to block Lin Ming's avatar.

Moreover, even if he blocked Lin Ming's avatar, it would be hard for Tian Mingzi to do anything in a short period of time. This avatar's defensive capabilities were far too dreadful. If they fought then this avatar might disregard all consequences to strike another death zone dao pattern, wanting them both to perish together. If that were to occur, Tian Mingzi found it hard to imagine what the consequences would be.

The moment that Lin Ming's avatar entered into Primordius Heavenly Palace, Tian Mingzi felt a thick killing intent surge up from behind him.

He turned around to see the remaining 50 some-iron armored spectral soldiers come to life once more. The stone chips on their

bodies had already fallen and a red flame lit up their eyes. They grasped their deadly weapons and began moving towards him!

Although Lin Ming and Tian Mingzi's battle seemed as if it occurred over a long period of time, the truth was that everything had happened far too quickly. The battle could only be described as ever-changing. From the time when Tian Mingzi rushed towards Lin Ming's true self, to the time at which Lin Ming activated the death zone dao pattern to draw the black divine lights into helping him enter Primordius Heavenly Palace, and even to the time that Lin Ming's avatar had triggered another death zone dao pattern, causing tremendous losses to Tian Mingzi, all of this had occurred in just several breaths of time!

And, several breaths of time were all that were required for those iron-armored spectral soldiers to reawaken. Now, they had finally entered their combat state.

For a time, Tian Mingzi's complexion became even uglier. This iron-armored spectral soldier array formation had only half of its spectral soldiers remaining and was far weaker than it was before. Perhaps it was only at 20-25% of the original array's strength. But now, Tian Mingzi's condition was also extremely poor. His shoulder was ruined and he had lost the ability to move one of his arms. His blood was chaotically moving within his body and many of his blood vessels had exploded. He had even been forced to burn some of his blood essence.

To fight against 50 iron-armored spectral soldiers in this situation, the difficulty of this could be imagined!

In terms of strength, Tian Mingzi was a peak Great World King, not much worse than the half-step Empyrean Ash Murder. But in terms of endurance and defensive capabilities, Tian Mingzi was far inferior to Ash Murder, who was from the saint race. Ash Murder cultivated body transformation and even in a situation where he was extremely wounded he was still able to maintain a considerable amount of his combat strength. This was not

something that Tian Mingzi could copy.

Facing these iron-armored spectral soldiers, Tian Mingzi had fallen into a life or death struggle!

“Well done, Lin Ming!” Tian Mingzi gazed towards Primordius Heavenly Palace with hatred shining in his eyes. He could already foresee that in order to defeat these remaining iron-armored spectral soldiers, he would need to pay a heavy price!

However, Lin Ming wasn't much better off. He had lost almost 80% of his blood and his blood vitality had been deeply diminished.

As for his avatar, it would be unable to fight again. After being struck by so many divine lights, it wouldn't have any combat strength for some time.

Now, what mattered the most was whether or not Tian Mingzi would have to pay some sky-high price to destroy all these iron-armored spectral soldiers.

If Tian Mingzi had even just 20% of his combat strength left afterwards, Lin Ming still wouldn't dare to leave Primordius Heavenly Palace. At that time, if Tian Mingzi were to simply sit down, meditate, and restore himself to his peak state then Lin Ming would die without a doubt.

“Lin Ming, for you to achieve what you have, I truly do admire you. But, you will die, no matter how deep the price I must pay. I will kill you and take all the secrets from your body!”

Tian Mingzi said with a true essence sound transmission towards Primordius Heavenly Palace. The palace array formation didn't stop sounds without striking power, thus Lin Ming was able to hear all of this.

“And there is you too, Xiao Moxian! You also must have left Tragic Death Valley and have been secretly assisting Lin Ming from the shadows to oppose me! When I break into your dwelling's grand array formation, I will toss you alive into a pill furnace and

use your half-phoenix body and primordial yin for my alchemy to make up for the blood energy I have lost! You are nothing more than a turtle in a jar, there is no way for you to survive!”

Tian Mingzi threatened Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian with words, wanting to shake their wills. Although this was a simple tactic, in this desperate situation it had a great effect. This was because everything that Tian Mingzi said had a chance of becoming reality!

After Xiao Moxian heard this, she paled.

Growing up until now, there were many people who had threatened her. Some people wanted to capture her to dual cultivate with her, and some people even wanted to rape her and take her primordial yin.

But, she had never encountered someone like Tian Mingzi who wanted to toss her into a pill furnace alive to refine her into a pill.

Thinking about how it would feel to be slowly refined alive into a pill, Xiao Moxian was terrified. Tian Mingzi was a brutal and ambitious person. He had no sympathy for beauty or lingering sentiments. For him, his only ambition was to conquer the world and become a god; he felt no emotions like lust or love.

Chapter 1525 – Like Rain With Water

Bang!

A horrifying explosion rang through Primordius Heavenly Palace. These were the sounds of energy detonations that were wildly surging outside from the fierce battle between Tian Mingzi and the iron-armored spectral soldiers!

Even if Tian Mingzi was severely wounded, his strength was still formidable. His black sword was like the scythe of a death god, reaping through the battlefield and shearing iron-armored spectral soldiers in half!

“Heaven Absorbing Demon Art!”

Tian Mingzi’s right hand reached out and a terrifying suction force locked onto the spectral soldier that he had just killed, drawing out all of its strength to completely gather into him!

Tian Mingzi planned to restore himself using the dregs of this battle in order to reduce the total energy he lost to the barest minimum.

This was also the tyrannical feature of the Heaven Absorbing Demon Art. In a battle, one could use this overbearing technique to absorb the enemies’ strength, becoming ever stronger during battle!

In a situation where there was a great difference in strength, then after a battle ended, the martial artist who used the Heaven Absorbing Demon Art would have even more energy in their body than they did at the start.

“Mm!? This power is...!”

As the strength from the spectral soldier entered Tian Mingzi, he felt his entire body shake and his meridians become chaotic, his blood tumbling within him!

The strength within the spectral soldier's body was extremely unique. It carried a terrifying demonic power that was incompatible with the Laws that Tian Mingzi knew of, as if it were its own independent Laws!

Not only could Tian Mingzi not use this strength, but it caused his true essence to run amok, nearly causing him to vomit blood!

“Damn! How could this happen!?”

Tian Mingzi was breathless with anger. Since he didn't understand the Asura Heavenly Dao he certainly wasn't able to control the strength contained within these iron-armored spectral soldiers. When he sucked in this strength that was infused with this strange devilish power, it was like eating a handful of poison powder.

When a mortal ate food they couldn't digest their stomach would be pained and uncomfortable. As for a martial artist that sucked in energy they couldn't control, the result could be imagined. This power wildly rampaged through Tian Mingzi's meridians, creating a tremendous burden on his already damaged meridians!

Puff!

Tian Mingzi's clothes tore apart. Several black arrows of energy shot out from his acupoints; he had forcefully pushed out this demonic power!

This brief collision left Tian Mingzi grimacing. Against these iron-armored spectral soldiers, he actually wasn't able to use this Heaven Absorbing Demon Art!

Without the Heaven Absorbing Demon Art, this battle would be that much more difficult.

“I cannot recklessly engage them head on. I must use guerilla tactics and avoid any frontal confrontation as much as I can to reduce my energy usage to the minimum.” Tian Mingzi didn't fear contending with this incomplete group of iron-armored spectral

soldiers. Rather, what he feared was Lin Ming, who was hiding away in Primordius Heavenly Palace!

He had no idea just what methods Lin Ming had remaining. The more strength he had left, the safer he would be.

.....

“Lin Ming, you don’t need to hurry...”

Xiao Moxian supported Lin Ming to sit atop a black stone bed. This stone bed was formed from chaos stones; it was where Empyrean Primordius usually cultivated.

Just this stone bed was a unique Empyrean spirit treasure. Although, its level was quite ordinary among Empyrean spirit treasures.

There were many similar treasures in Primordius Heavenly Palace. If any of these treasures were taken to the outside, they would become objects that World King Holy Lands would brutally wage war for.

By sitting on this chaos stone bed, the chaos energy in one’s body would be pulled along by the stone bed so that it spontaneously circulated on its own, thus providing a cultivating effect.

Now with Lin Ming severely wounded, he could also sit on this stone bed to direct the chaos stone energy into his body and slightly make up for the blood vitality he lost.

“I’m fine. I need to speed up the flow of time here to the longest possible – 1 to 500!”

Within Primordius Heavenly Palace were many array formations, one of them being an array formation that could control the flow of time; there was no need for Xiao Moxian to personally set up an enchantment.

In a time enchantment where the temporal flow was sped up to a ridiculous degree, it was simply impossible to cultivate. But, using

it for recovering wasn't a problem at all.

Now, Lin Ming needed to restore his injuries as soon as possible.

By relying on his own formidable regenerative abilities and all sorts of top ranked pills, Lin Ming could restore the wound on his lower abdomen in a mere two to four hours.

As for the blood vitality he was missing, that was a bit troublesome. No matter what, it would take some time.

And this was under the assumption that all sorts of top medicines were taken.

Lin Ming didn't have such a long time to restore himself. By the time he was recovered, Tian Mingzi would have already finished his battle.

"Ji Xian'er, you and I are both in an extremely dangerous situation. I have a feeling that once Tian Mingzi breaks through the iron-armored spectral soldiers, although he will have consumed a great deal of strength, he won't be completely exhausted. If that happens, even if you and I are completely restored, the both of us combined will not be his match..."

Lin Ming's expression was grim. The moment that Tian Mingzi defeated the iron-armored spectral soldiers would also be his weakest moment. If Lin Ming couldn't defeat Tian Mingzi at this time, then as more time passed, Tian Mingzi would only become increasingly strong.

At that time, their only destiny would be to slowly stand by until they were killed or refined into pills.

"Then what can we do?" Xiao Moxian asked Lin Ming. At this time, she had no idea what they could do. In this God Burying Ridge she had experienced all sorts of dangers and tribulations, and she had slowly become accustomed to relying on Lin Ming to come up with a plan for these times.

"First I need to recover. Come and help me."

Lin Ming said. He took out some blood vitality restoring pills from his spatial ring and swallowed them all down as he started to meditate.

The pills that Lin Ming swallowed all had mild, nourishing properties. Currently, Lin Ming's blood vitality was too weak and he couldn't handle the more brutal medicines.

Xiao Moxian also sat on the stone bed. She sat on her knees, facing Lin Ming.

She pulled Lin Ming's hand into her own, continuously delivering the blood vitality within her own body.

Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian were hard and flexible, a perfect complement of yin and yang. With the two of them together, Lin Ming's True Dragon energy blended with her True Phoenix blood. The energy between them echoed, becoming stronger, boundless.

As Lin Ming's True Dragon energy was nourished by the True Phoenix blood, it became increasingly vibrant and vigorous, rushing up like a river at high tide, endlessly swirling within him.

As for Xiao Moxian's True Phoenix blood, after it obtained the nourishment of Lin Ming's True Dragon energy, it became increasingly hot, like a never-ending flame, burning on until the end of time.

In this life or death moment, neither of them held back anything. Their aura, blood vitality, energies, and even their life force mixed together, lifting each other up.

This sort of feeling was as if Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian had fused together as one.

Of course, Lin Ming's profits during this process were much greater. After all, he had lost a tremendous amount of blood vitality and had to rely on Xiao Moxian's primordial yin energy to make up for it.

After being revitalized by Xiao Moxian's blood vitality, the

muscles over Lin Ming's lower abdomen began to wriggle about. His organs regenerated and the skin began knitting together. His wound was regenerating at a visible speed.

The origin energy exchange became increasingly quick. Xiao Moxian's body was dripping with sweat. As Lin Ming's vigorous yang energy entered her body she felt her entire body heat up. Blood rushed to her face, making her feel comfortable and warm, like her entire body was melting away into a puddle.

Even Xiao Moxian's inner world faintly trembled, seeming as if it wanted to break into the Divine Lord realm!

Xiao Moxian had already entered the late Divine Transformation realm. She had diligently cultivated in Tragic Death Valley for nine years and had also studied the first volume of the Asura Sutra. She was extremely close to breaking into the Divine Lord boundary!

As for Lin Ming, he felt as if his entire body was being baptized in a bath of nectar. His entire body was comfortable and his pores opened up. The 360 acupoints on his body as well as the tens of thousands of pores were wide open, greedily absorbing the primordial yin energy that Xiao Moxian was releasing. As this energy circulated through Lin Ming's body, all sorts of changes occurred within him, accompanied by a myriad of different tastes.

In a time of crisis, the two of them had completely invested themselves in this cultivation process. They became familiar with each other's body. This sort of familiarity was not just their bodies, but even their bloodline, inner world, and spiritual sea was completely opened to the other party.

It was unknown how long this state continued for. Lin Ming's eyes remained shut tight and the wound on his abdomen had already completely healed. Even a good portion of his blood vitality had been restored. Although it wasn't to his peak state, it was far, far better than before.

After being in this state of perfect harmony, Xiao Moxian's large,

pitch-black eyes opened. Her eyes blinked as she stared at Lin Ming right in front of her. She was only a mere three inches from his face, and at this distance she could clearly smell the unique and masculine scent wafting from his body. This scene smelled quite nice.

Lin Ming's face was strong, with distinct edges. He had extraordinary looks. His eyes were like stars and his eyebrows slanted up like swords. His body was filled with the spirit and soul of a vibrant, outstanding young elite, but he still retained the calm atmosphere of a mature martial artist.

At this time, Lin Ming's entire body was covered in sweat. His eyelids gently trembled and his body continued to release a strong yang energy. As this energy entered Xiao Moxian's body, it made her feel so good that she thought she was drunk.

She didn't know how long she had been staring at Lin Ming for. Her cheeks were red, endlessly alluring. Sometimes her vision was clear, and sometimes her vision was blurry.

At this time, Lin Ming opened his eyes.

After being discovered sneaking a look by Lin Ming, Xiao Moxian didn't evade his sight. She continued to stare at him as before, both of them in close proximity to each other.

Her eyes flickered. Within her eyes was the naïve innocence of a girl, the tender feelings of a young woman, as well as ten thousand flavors of emotions that had yet to mature. Just the light in Xiao Moxian's eyes had countless meanings that she couldn't express.

Seeing Xiao Moxian's eyes that were sometimes clear and sometimes blurry, Lin Ming was stunned for a moment. But at this time, he couldn't think about it too much. His palm turned and a black bead appeared in his hand. This was the Grandmist Spirit Bead essence that he obtained from the Eternal Demon Abyss.

This was the blood and flesh essence energy gathered by the

Grandmist Spirit Bead over a period of a hundred million years. When Lin Ming was at the Eternal Demon Abyss he had used 10% of the energy within to break through his cultivation boundary. The remaining 90% had been left over because he was too weak to absorb it all.

Now that he had broken into the Divine Lord realm, taking out the Grandmist Spirit Bead essence to restore his blood vitality was just the right timing.

The Grandmist Spirit Bead essence was an extremely potent and tyrannical medicine. Lin Ming had mixed together with Xiao Moxian in perfect harmony to restore a part of his blood vitality, and only then did he dare to think about absorbing it.

This Grandmist Spirit Bead that was covered with demonic runes slowly floated upwards, levitating between Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian. Xiao Moxian was stirred out of her thoughts. Then, her eyes shifted from Lin Ming's face to this mysterious black bead.

“Lin Ming... this is...”

From this black bead, Xiao Moxian could feel a blood vitality surging out like a boundless sea, causing her to be startled!

Chapter 1526 – Another Breakthrough

Lin Ming didn't plan on concealing anything from Xiao Moxian. He held the black bead and truthfully said, "Ji Xian'er, this is a hundred million years' worth of gathered essence from the Grandmist Spirit Bead."

"Grandmist Spirit Bead!? You mean the Grandmist Spirit Bead that is in the hands of the Good Fortune Saint Son!?" Xiao Moxian was dumbfounded. As a peak young elite of the Divine Realm, she certainly knew what level of treasure the Grandmist Spirit Bead was and what it meant.

"It is exactly that."

Xiao Moxian was even more panic-stricken as she heard Lin Ming's affirmation. "How would you have something like that?"

"Senior Empyrean Primordius passed it down to me."

The saint race had wrested the Grandmist Spirit Bead from Empyrean Primordius. This was not a secret to the high level figures of the Divine Realm, and even Xiao Moxian knew of this history. In fact, if Lin Ming didn't say anything, Xiao Moxian would have figured it out after recovering from her shock.

"Empyrean Primordius! I see, so your chaos stone dwelling is also passed down to you from Empyrean Primordius!"

Xiao Moxian said, suddenly aware, She finally knew what sort of lucky chances Lin Ming had experienced.

There were far too many secrets circling around Lin Ming. In Xiao Moxian's eyes, even if there was a successor who had completely inherited Empyrean Primordius' legacy, it would still be hard for them to reach Lin Ming's current lofty heights. Moreover, as a martial artist from the lower realms, it was unimaginable how Lin Ming would have obtained Empyrean Primordius' approval.

“Yes, Senior Primordius bestowed upon me a great graciousness. The things he left for me have saved my life several times. Just in facing Tian Mingzi, Senior Primordius has already rescued me three times.”

Lin Ming and Tian Mingzi had had several bitter encounters with each other. During his trip to the Sky Spill Continent, Lin Ming had relied upon the secrets within the Eternal Demon Abyss to reverse the situation and slay Tian Mingzi’s avatar.

Now, he had used Primordius Heavenly Palace to prevent Tian Mingzi hunting him down through God Burying Ridge.

“This Grandmist Spirit Bead essence in my hands is condensed from the blood vitality that the Grandmist Spirit Bead absorbed over a hundred million years. It is almost impossible to split apart and if I swallow it directly then I cannot withstand the impact of it. I can only use the Grandmist Heavenly Dao left behind by Empyrean Primordius to divide a small portion of its origin energy and then slowly absorb it. Now, I will draw out a part of its origin energy and you and I will absorb it together.”

“Absorb it together?” Xiao Moxian was well aware of how precious this Grandmist Spirit Bead essence was; it far surpassed a transcendent divine pill! If she could absorb it then it would be of great benefit to her cultivation!

“Mm, when we cultivated together just now, I was able to feel that you were just half a step from the Divine Lord realm. If you absorb the Grandmist Spirit Bead essence then it might be possible for you to break through to the Divine Lord realm!”

Facing Tian Mingzi, Lin Ming didn’t have faith that he would be able to defeat him alone. If he could add on Xiao Moxian, then the two of them would have a much higher chance of success.

Xiao Moxian also trained in the Asura Sutra. Once she broke into the Divine Lord realm, she wouldn’t be much weaker than Lin Ming!

“Divine Lord realm... perhaps I might be able to break through, but even if I do, you and I together might not be Tian Mingzi’s match...”

Xiao Moxian didn’t refuse. At this time, she and Lin Ming were travelling the stormy seas on the same little boat together.

“That’s right... that’s why I have to bet everything on this. In the next several hours, I have to make another breakthrough!”

As Lin Ming spoke, a sharp light exploded in his eyes. Xiao Moxian was shocked to hear this, “Make another breakthrough? How will you make another breakthrough?”

Lin Ming had entered the early Divine Lord realm just several days ago; it would be impossible for him to make another breakthrough.

In many cases, geniuses would intentionally suppress their cultivation in order to further stabilize their foundation, even when they were able to make a breakthrough anytime they wanted. But, this sort of situation only occurred when those geniuses stayed in that boundary for a long enough time and their cultivation had accumulated to a high enough degree.

As for Lin Ming, he had just broken through a large boundary several days ago and he had no accumulations at all. His inner world was completely empty. In this situation, him wanting to make another breakthrough was simply an idiot spouting nonsense.

Lin Ming said, “It is indeed impossible for me to make another breakthrough in the essence gathering system, but there actually lies a chance for me to do so in the body transformation system. I plan to... challenge the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace!”

As Lin Ming spoke the words ‘the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace’ every word he spoke was slow and steady, each word carrying with it a bold courage and deep determination!

Nine Stars of the Dao Palace!

This was a mythical boundary, one that the Heavenly Dao Laws would not abide!

As a proud daughter of the Divine Realm, Xiao Moxian certainly knew just what this boundary meant.

“Lin Ming... are you joking with me... you want to break into the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace!?”

Ever since the great calamity 3.6 billion years ago, the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace had become the shackles that bound down all human body transformation system martial artists. They were chains that could not be broken.

In the legends, a million years ago, Empyrean Primordius had broken free from these chains, becoming the first and only person to step into the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace since the last great calamity!

However, the reason Empyrean Primordius was able to accomplish this was because of his extreme talent and, more importantly, because he possessed the Grandmist Spirit Bead!

That was the ultimate body transformation treasure in the entire 33 Heavens, and a unique existence that surpassed the Heavenly Dao rules. With Empyrean Primordius' talent in addition to such a heaven-defying treasure, people could acknowledge that he had broken free from the Heavenly Dao rules and stepped into the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace.

As for Lin Ming, he did not possess the Grandmist Spirit Bead!

Lin Ming created miracle after miracle, and even Xiao Moxian believed that there would be a day when he could break into the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace. But, this time would only come once he came across some bewildering lucky chance and when all sorts of factors coincided together. When all of that occurred and with the massive destiny upon Lin Ming's body, only then would he

have a chance of success!

It was definitely not like now, where Lin Ming would break into the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace just because he said he would!

“Lin Ming, do you have any idea what you are speaking about? The Nine Stars of the Dao Palace are a myth. If you possessed the Grandmist Spirit Bead then perhaps you might be able to do it, but now you only have the Grandmist Spirit Bead essence.”

Xiao Moxian was normally fully confident in Lin Ming, but at this time even she found it hard to believe in him.

Lin Ming gravely said, “From the time I stepped on the road of martial arts I chose to dual cultivate in body and energy, so I certainly know what the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace mean. In fact, I am far clearer than anyone else on how difficult it is!”

Lin Ming’s words left Xiao Moxian speechless. Indeed, Lin Ming had already cultivated the Eight Inner Hidden Gates to the limit. In terms of understanding the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace, even an Empyrean was inferior to him. The only reason he dared to say he would break through the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace was because he had carefully considered all variables.

“Do you really have full confidence you can do it?” Xiao Moxian said, disbelief thick in her voice.

“I don’t...” Lin Ming shook his head, “But now I have no other choice. I only have around a 10% chance of succeeding!”

“10%...” Xiao Moxian felt her heart sink into her stomach. Although it was shocking that Lin Ming would say he had even a 10% chance of breaking into the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace, having only a 10% chance of making a breakthrough in such a critical moment simply seemed far too low.

“If you don’t break into the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace, is there no way for us to live through this?” Xiao Moxian asked after a moment of silence.

Lin Ming shook his head, "I cannot think of another way for us to survive this. Tian Mingzi's methods are too sinister and crafty; even I couldn't imagine that he would be playing the bird as the praying mantis hunted. Although I managed to wound him, I had to pay a deep price to do so. If I had been prepared for him then this would not have been the result. We are currently in Bai Qi's tomb. If I'm not wrong, as long as Tian Mingzi eliminates the spectral soldiers he will then seal away Primordius Heavenly Palace. It's even likely that he will place layers of seals on the space crack exit to remove any chance that we can escape. Then, he will trap us here and slowly refine us."

With Tian Mingzi's normal way of doing things, Lin Ming didn't expect that he would reveal any flaw that he could exploit to escape.

Xiao Moxian sucked in a deep breath as she heard this. Then, she suddenly laughed. "Well, since you put it that way, it seems this really is what they call nine chances of death and only one chance of survival..."

If they could only wait for death if Lin Ming wasn't able to break through to the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace, then their chance of death had reached 90%.

Lin Ming shook his head, "It might be more than 90%, because even if I make a breakthrough into the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace, I still have no idea what degree of strength I will reach and whether or not that will allow me to fight Tian Mingzi."

Tian Mingzi was a peak Great World King. Even if he was completely exhausted, he was likely to have even more cards hidden up his sleeves.

After listening to Lin Ming, for a time, Xiao Moxian didn't know what sort of feelings were running through her heart.

Besides the fear of death that could arrive at any time, there were also other thoughts on her mind.

She looked at Lin Ming for a long time and then quietly said, “If you were to die with me here, would you regret it?”

“Regret?” Lin Ming was stunned. He found it strange that Xiao Moxian would suddenly ask such a question. If they were really to die here then what use was regret?

“I want to ask you, do you regret coming to the Asura Road, do you regret journeying to the Great Desolate, do you regret rescuing me and entering Tragic Death Valley with me, where we were stranded for nine years and even after we finally came out we still might be buried in this dangerous land...”

Xiao Moxian’s words caused Lin Ming to recall some memories. Although it was easy to say that they were stranded in Tragic Death Valley for nine years, the truth was that those nine years were 3300 days and 3300 nights. He remembered all of this because it was something that left a deep mark in his mind.

He let out a light sigh and said, “If I really die here then of course I will be unwilling, but, in this world there are no second chances for regrets. Since I made my choice I also have to face them. It’s not about regretting or not regretting, because what use is regret in the end?”

Xiao Moxian wrinkled her nose in response, not seeming to like Lin Ming’s answer. She unhappily said, “From what you’re saying, if regret is useful to you then you’ll regret... right?”

Xiao Moxian seemed to tangle this seemingly meaningless question that made no sense at all. Lin Ming didn’t know how to reply. In truth, he faintly understood her thoughts, but now was not the time to dwell on such things.

“At this time what use is there in talking about these sorts of tangled thoughts? Let’s conserve as much time as we can and absorb the Grandmist Spirit Bead essence. Trying to make a breakthrough right now is what we should both be striving for.”

Xiao Moxian glared at Lin Ming, her complexion a bit ugly. “The flow of time has been sped up 500 times here, so how much time could saying some words take? I’m just afraid that if I don’t say them now, I won’t have the chance to later...”

Speaking to her, Xiao Moxian’s voice seemed to carry a hint of sadness.

Lin Ming felt his heart soften. “Then if you have any other words to say, say them...”

“I have a question I’ve wanted to ask you for a long time already...” Xiao Moxian’s lips trembled, her eyes haunting as she looked at Lin Ming. She was silent for a long time, and then, as if she were mustering her determination, she calmly and clearly said, “One day, if you and I become mortal enemies, will you kill me?”

Chapter 1527 – Attacking the Dao Palace

Lin Ming was stunned as he heard Xiao Moxian's question. He asked in response, "Why would we be mortal enemies?"

"I mean, if." Xiao Moxian said, not explaining much.

Lin Ming looked at Xiao Moxian strangely. At this time, she was asking such strange and bewildering questions. "These ifs that you speak of have no meaning at all. In this desperate life or death situation you still have the mind to ask such confusing questions; just what are you thinking?"

Xiao Moxian's complexion darkened. She coldly said, "If the monster race and demon race were to stand on the opposite side of humanity? If our races must be foes with each other, will you kill me then?"

Xiao Moxian's words caused Lin Ming's heart to turn cold. He immediately understood what Xiao Moxian was trying to say.

In the war between the humans and saints, the monsters and demons were indeed able to stay uninvolved. And if they were to choose a side, it was hard to say which side they would decide to join. And, as the most important future figure of the monster and demon races, Xiao Moxian would likely become the eventual ruler of both races!

Even being hunted down by the saints was something that was only aimed at Lin Ming, not Xiao Moxian. If Xiao Moxian were to be captured by the saints then they would only think of forcefully marrying her away. As for killing her and seizing the bloodline in her body, when this was compared to alliance of their two races, then the benefits Xiao Moxian's bloodline brought were unworthy of mentioning.

As for using Xiao Moxian for alchemy, those were only Tian Mingzi's thoughts.

“So you’re saying... that Empyrean Demondawn and the Monster Emperor are leaning towards the saints?” Lin Ming asked.

“I do not know, and even if I did I cannot change their decision.”
Xiao Moxian earnestly said.

“I understand...” Lin Ming quietly responded. He was silent for a long time, and then he said with a serious expression, “It is impossible for me to have you betray your people. Similarly, I also cannot betray my people. This isn’t just because of the blood that flows through my veins, but because my family, my friends, my teachers, my masters, all those that I know, all of them are humans. If humanity and the demon race must become enemies, then as a member of humanity, I will fight for them until the end.”

Lin Ming had received the deep graciousness of Empyrean Divine Dream and had also inherited the legacy of both Empyrean Primordius and Empyrean Divine Seal. Whether it was Empyrean Primordius or Empyrean Divine Seal, both of them had died bravely in battle for the existence of humanity, and Lin Ming had inherited their hopes and wishes. How could he possibly betray the human race?

“If there really comes a day where you and I represent our own races and there is no path left for us to go, then I can only hope that you do not hold back.”

Lin Ming stared straight into Xiao Moxian’s eyes. For a time, it seemed as if her body was shaking.

Her vision blurred, seeming as if she was lost in thought for a moment. Then, she slowly said, “I understand...”

The truth was that Xiao Moxian already knew the answer to this question before she asked it. She didn’t need to be a genius to know what Lin Ming’s reply would be, because if he replied otherwise then he wouldn’t be the Lin Ming she knew.

But for some reason, even though she knew the answer, she still

mulled over this question and kept it close to her mind, a pressure that perpetually hung over her heart. Now, she asked this question just because she wanted to release it from her heart, and to convince herself to thoroughly give up all thoughts of anything else happening.

Give up...

Xiao Moxian felt a strange and unknown ache in her heart.

Xiao Moxian had a feeling that the Monster Emperor and her grandfather had already sided with the saint race. This was because the method to break into the True Divinity realm was far too fatal a temptation!

Then after they left the Asura Road, just what would await them? She and Lin Ming would both go on their own separate roads, and the next time they saw each other, they would be mortal enemies, fighting to the bitter end?

As Xiao Moxian imagined this result, she felt her heart hollow out and a painful hitch as she tried to breath.

When Lin Ming rescued her in the Great Desolate, when they spend nine years of days and nights in Tragic Death Valley, when they held hands to escape the demonic tide, when they rushed into the God Beast Tomb array formation, as well as when they stumbled into Bai Qi's tomb, resolving danger after danger as he struck down foes dozens of times stronger than he was...

All of these scenes flashed through her mind, lingering in her consciousness. The final image in her mind was when Lin Ming stumbled into her arms, severely wounded, and the two of them freely gave their energy to each other, trying their best to break free from this hopeless situation...

For a time, a bitter grief swelled up within her.

Xiao Moxian didn't think that Lin Ming would betray humanity. Similarly, she would not betray the demon race.

They were doomed to never have anything good come from their relationship.

As Xiao Moxian was lost in her thoughts, Lin Ming sat in front of her, silent the entire time. After all, he wasn't the youth he was in the past, one that didn't know anything about human thoughts and emotions. He was able to faintly guess just what Xiao Moxian was thinking.

And regarding this, he could only remain silent.

He certainly hoped that whether or not the monsters and demons opposed humanity, Xiao Moxian would still stand by his side, together. However, this thought was too selfish and not practical. So, Lin Min Ming decided not to say anything and simply remained silent.

“Let's continue to cultivate. But, I hope your mood isn't affected.”

Xiao Moxian looked at the Grandmist Spirit Bead essence in front of her, seeming as if she couldn't concentrate at all.

Lin Ming frowned. He said, “Don't absorb the Grandmist Spirit Bead essence. Your current mood is not suitable for making a breakthrough.”

Breaking through to the Divine Lord realm was an extremely important matter. Many martial artists would spend hundreds of years preparing for this moment. They would undergo a long ritual, burning incense, praying, and even then there was a chance they might fail, much less someone like Xiao Moxian right now whose mood was so shaky. If she were to fail her breakthrough now, then the massive amount of energy would turn chaotic in her body, causing her to fall into depravity and damage her cultivation.

“No! I can make this breakthrough!” Xiao Moxian stubbornly said.

“That... alright.”

Lin Ming agreed. If Xiao Moxian could arrive at this step, she naturally had an outstanding cultivation ability and talent. In terms of cultivating experience she was no worse than Lin Ming. Lin Ming didn't need to worry about her because she knew well enough what her limits were.

Lin Ming's thoughts stirred and the time enchantment covering them was immediately removed. This time enchantment could be used to heal from wounds, but wanting to make cultivation breakthroughs was not possible. This was because if Xiao Moxian wanted to break into the Divine Lord realm, she had to enlighten herself with the world Laws. As for Lin Ming, if he wanted to break into the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace, he needed the Dao Palaces within his body to correspond with the nine stars in space. None of these things were possible to accomplish within the time enchantment.

Lin Ming formed dozens of seals as he revolved the Grandmist Heavenly Dao, drawing out the blood vitality from the Grandmist Spirit Bead essence.

This blood vitality essence split into two, floating towards Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian like ancient pythons.

These two pythons had fierce appearances and their aura was formidable. Their bodies were covered with scales that clearly shimmered with lines. They didn't seem like manifestations formed from blood vitality, but true ancient vicious beasts.

As these pythons approached Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian, the two of them felt all the blood vitality within their bodies being pulled by them, as if their blood wanted to roar out from them.

In that moment, Xiao Moxian had also settled her thoughts, eliminating all distractions as she fully invested herself in making her breakthrough.

She could feel a wild and brutal will from this Grandmist Spirit Bead essence in front of her. This would not be easy to absorb. If she failed to subdue it, she would fall into madness.

Then, Lin Ming turned his hand, revealing a crystalline pill in his palm. This was the Nine Star Heaven Pill!

In the past, just before Lin Ming returned to the Sky Spill Planet, he had encountered Tian Mingzi in the Demondawn Great World. The cause was this Nine Star Heaven Pill. The Nine Star Heaven Pill was a lost recipe in the Divine Realm. It was an ancient pill that was once used to help humans break into the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace, but now its effects were much diminished.

Afterwards, Lin Ming had obtained the pill recipe for the Nine Star Heaven Pill. Empyrean Divine Dream had gathered the materials and helped him refine the pill. Now, he was finally able to use it.

The Nine Star Heaven Pill was swallowed down by Lin Ming. At the same time, the python of Grandmist Spirit Bead essence rushed into Lin Ming's body, bringing with it a savage and tyrannical aura, as if it came from a primal and desolate era.

This energy crashed into Lin Ming's meridians, seeming as if it would wash away his veins and split apart his body!

In the Eternal Demon Abyss, Lin Ming and Mo Eversnow together had only absorbed 10% of the Grandmist Spirit Bead essence. But now, in Bai Qi's tomb, Lin Ming directed 20% of this essence energy into his body.

The ancient python ravaged through Lin Ming's body. But at this time, Lin Ming's True Dragon energy came wildly galloping out, suppressing it with overwhelming force!

With his own blood vitality, Lin Ming had forcefully suppressed the Grandmist Spirit Bead essence that he swallowed. In that moment, all of Lin Ming's energy rushed towards nine points on

his body, seeming to form pearls of blood!

These nine points on Lin Ming's body seemed to echo with some strange and unknown power in the endless skies. Lin Ming felt his sight fade away and in the next moment he had arrived in a completely pitch black space.

This space was empty, with only nine stars hanging high above. These nine stars were arranged in a strange manner, sprinkling endless starlight down, shining upon the world.

As this starlight illuminated Lin Ming, he felt his flesh, blood and bones all stretch out and all the pores and acupoints over his body automatically open to recklessly swallow up the starlight from these nine stars. As this starlight entered his body, a vast river of strength followed, one that seemed as if it would never end!

Beneath this powerful strength, Lin Ming could feel his flesh, bloodlines, meridian channels, everything within him transforming. His mortal body rapidly increased in strength.

The first time Lin Ming saw the boundary of the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace was when he absorbed the blood vitality of the great emperor heart in the Eternal Demon Abyss. Then, when he absorbed the Grandmist Spirit Bead essence, he had touched upon the threshold of the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace.

At that time, Lin Ming had only been 34-35 years old. Now, he was over 50 years old. Over 20 years had passed.

In these 20 years of accumulating strength, Lin Ming had remained stranded beneath the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace. All sorts of lucky chances and fortuitous encounters had been slowly gathered by him, all for today's breakthrough!

Even so, Lin Ming only had a 10% chance of breaking into the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace!

In this dark void, If Lin Ming could pull down one of the stars in the sky and refine it into the Dao Palace within him, then he would

truly have stepped into the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace!

The Nine Stars of the Dao Palace that Lin Ming saw were no illusion. Above where Lin Ming was sitting, there were indeed nine stars that shined, their starlight sprinkling down. Even Xiao Moxian was able to clearly see them.

“The Nine Stars of the Dao Palace, it really is the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace!”

Xiao Moxian’s eyes brightened. At this time she couldn’t even give further praise because she had to complete her own breakthrough. However, whether it was because she lacked accumulations or because her mood was in chaos, although she had managed to subdue the Grandmist Spirit Bead essence within her, she was still a single breath away from stepping into the Divine Lord realm.

Chapter 1528 – Dao Diagram of the Heavenly Dao

To refine a star to enter his body was easier said than done. Lin Ming constantly swallowed starlight, gathering his strength. His mortal body continued to grow stronger and stronger. Although he didn't break through to the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace, his mortal bodily strength rose up from a billion jins, rapidly approaching 2 billion jins!

“My strength is still far too lacking!”

Lin Ming's eyes were like bolts of lightning in the darkness. He formed more seals with his hands, drawing out another ancient python of blood vitality from the Grandmist Spirit Bead and having it rush into his body.

This python was another 20% of the Grandmist Spirit Bead essence. Lin Ming had now swallowed a full 40% of the Grandmist Spirit Bead essence in this attempt. When this was added onto the powerful blood vitality within the Nine Star Heaven Pill, Lin Ming's mortal body rapidly inflated as if he would explode at any moment.

His veins bulged out like worms. Sweat dripped down from all over him. His body had reached the limit of strength that it could absorb and wanted to explode!

Lin Ming looked up, his brilliant eyes locking onto one of the nine stars floating in space. Then, he leapt upwards!

Nine stars. Of them, seven were incomparably bright and two were dim. The seven bright stars corresponded to the seven Bright Palaces within the human body, and the two dark stars corresponded to the two Hidden Palaces within the human body.

Now, the star that Lin Ming rushed towards was the closest bright star! This star's name was Army Breaker!

The Army Breaker Star. The meaning of this was that it could freely wander the world, breaking through the lines of any army, unstoppable and irresistible!

Lin Ming's bodily strength erupted to the limit. The Eight Inner Hidden Gates opened to the limit. He wanted to forcefully pluck this star down!

When martial arts were practiced to the highest level, one could pick down stars and shoot down moons. These were not empty fairytales, because Lin Ming was trying to do this right now!

In terms of foundation, if Lin Ming were compared to the body transformation martial artists from 3.6 billion years ago, he would be ten times or even a hundred times better! In the past, if Lin Ming wanted to break through the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace with his strength, it would have been as easy as eating a meal. But now, he had to break past the Heavenly Dao rules!

The Heavenly Dao rules did not abide the existence of the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace; this caused Lin Ming's cultivation to be blocked. But looking at this from another viewpoint, this meant that the foundation of Lin Ming's body transformation had been suppressed even as it accumulated to an unbelievable degree. Once it erupted then it would truly be like dragons and phoenixes soaring to the highest heavens, showing naught but disdain for the world!

The moment that Lin Ming rushed towards the Army Breaker Star, the void trembled around him. It was like all of the surrounding space-time was collapsing. A terrifying strength gathered, dreadful to the extreme!

Lin Ming maintained his vigilance. This dreadful power was truly fear-inspiring. It seemed as if it could tear apart everything and it was clearly aimed at him!

Opening the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace was something not allowed by the Heavenly Dao rules. Even if Lin Ming's mortal body

foundation had accumulated to an incredible degree, the moment that he tried to impact the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace, he would inevitably be hindered by the Heavenly Dao!

In the empty void, lines of the Great Dao slowly appeared, weaving together into a dao diagram that locked down the nine stars in the sky.

“Are these the Heavenly Dao Laws that lock down the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace?”

Lin Ming looked towards the dao diagram in the sky. This dao diagram contained an incomparably horrifying strength. He didn't doubt that as long as he rushed forwards, he would be ruthlessly and mercilessly suppressed by this dao diagram!

To transgress the Heavenly Dao was to withstand heavenly tribulation. Once heavenly tribulation came falling down, even extreme geniuses could perish in ashes, without even their bones remaining!

Lin Ming took a deep breath and decisively shot into the dao diagram. He had to gamble everything he had because there was no alternative for him!

Weng –

The lines of the Great Dao came pressing down upon Lin Ming, carrying with them a great aura that could not be defied, one that stood at the pinnacle of all existence.

Lin Ming roared out. He gathered all his strength and punched!

In the dark void, all strength besides that of the body transformation system was forbidden. Lin Ming could only revolve the strength within his mortal body, releasing his Eight Inner Hidden Gates to their limit as he smashed into the dao diagram!

Kacha!

With a thunderous peal, Lin Ming's arm shook, the bones nearly

cracking as his fists stained themselves red with blood.

As for the Great Dao lines in front of him, they only slightly trembled, without any hint that they would shatter.

The dao diagram slowly rotated, pressing Lin Ming in the center of countless dao patterns. These dao patterns were like a terrifying grinding pan, grinding down on Lin Ming's bones and muscles!

The void was crushed to pieces. Under this horrifying pressure, even Lin Ming's powerful mortal body seemed as if it would crack open. His blood vessels exploded and blood gushed out from him.

This was the strength of the Heavenly Dao, completely different from the nine by nine heavenly tribulation of metal, wood, water, fire, earth, wind, thunder, yin, and yang, that Lin Ming had previously experienced. Those were tangible disasters, but this time it was entirely suppression of the Laws.

These invisible Laws could be as heavy as stars, able to grind down everything.

Lin Ming's body emitted loud crackling sounds. No matter how durable his mortal body was, under the suppression of these Laws he still couldn't withstand it.

Lin Ming clenched his jaws, his eyes turning red with effort. The moment that he had decided to break through the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace, he had expected that this experience would be difficult. But, he didn't think it would be difficult to such a ridiculous degree.

“Did I overestimate my 10% chance of success?”

Lin Ming was unwilling. In the past, Empyrean Primordius had undergone a similar tribulation, but back then, Empyrean Primordius also possessed the Grandmist Spirit Bead, a divine object of the highest level when it came to body transformation Laws. By relying on the Grandmist Spirit Bead to protect his body, only then did he overcome that tribulation.

As for Lin Ming, he had to resist the Heavenly Dao Law unarmed!
The difficulty of this could be imagined!

Bang!

Lin Ming punched out his fists once more. Countless blood vessels exploded, leaving his clothes dripping red. His body was nearly crushed to pieces. And on the outside of this empty nothingness, Lin Ming's true self was also in an extremely poor situation.

At this time, Lin Ming's true body was pale white and shivering. He was bleeding from his nose, eyes, and ears!

Above Lin Ming's head, the phantoms of nine stars were clearly visible. As the vast and endless starlight came sprinkling down, even Primordius Heavenly Palace vanished. Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian arrived in an endless cosmos. What they sat on was no longer the chaos stone bed, but the infinite galaxy.

"Lin Ming..."

Xiao Moxian's heart tightened as she saw Lin Ming's pained expression. She already knew that breaking into the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace would be extremely risky. Even an extreme character like Empyrean Primordius had relied upon a divine object in order to break through. Moreover, when Empyrean Primordius had broken through to the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace, he had already been cultivating for tens of thousands of years.

As for Lin Ming, all he had to rely on was his heated blood and ardent will. With his less than 60 years of cultivation, he was attempting to break through the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace. The risks he faced could be imagined.

Xiao Moxian also paled. At this time, she didn't know how she could help Lin Ming. Although a massive amount of energy entered her inner world, she still wasn't able to make her

breakthrough. There was just some kind of final catalyst that was missing.

Weng – Weng – !

The Heavenly Dao Laws revolved. Lin Ming shivered as he overdrew his strength. Right now, his strength was still far from enough for breaking past the barrier of the Heavenly Dao!

Lin Ming took a deep breath, resolving to wrestle against the odds with his life. Using the Grandmist Heavenly Dao, he forced a third python from the Grandmist Spirit Bead essence to enter his body!

This was also another 20% of the essence. Combined with the previous two times, Lin Ming had absorbed a total of 60% of the Grandmist Spirit Bead essence!

In front of Lin Ming, Xiao Moxian was panic-stricken.

Lin Ming was insane! His mortal body was already ruined to such a degree and yet he wanted to absorb another 20% of the Grandmist Spirit Bead essence. Just how could he possibly refine it?

Chapter 1529 – Extreme Yin Blood Essence

The Grandmist Spirit Bead essence was originally an extremely violent and tyrannical blood essence energy. If one's cultivation was insufficient, then directing the Grandmist Spirit Essence into the body would cause their body to perish through exploding. This was like a mortal swallowing down a bar of gold; their body wouldn't be able to digest it and their stomach would swell until they died.

Lin Ming's situation was already extremely poor. In this state, he forcefully swallowed another 20% of the essence energy. The burden this placed on his body could be imagined.

In the endless empty universe, Lin Ming roared out loud. With the support of this wild and brutal Grandmist Spirit Bead essence, he punched out at the nine star dao diagram! After directing the last 20% of the Grandmist Spirit Bead essence into his body, Lin Ming had already cut off all avenues of retreat. He could only bet everything on this last desperate attempt!

With Lin Ming's current strength and his ruined body, it was impossible for him to fully absorb this 20% of the Grandmist Spirit Bead essence. If he couldn't break through the nine star dao diagram then he could only wait for his body to explode!

Kacha!

Lin Ming attacked with everything he had, even splitting apart his fingers. The nine star dao diagram wildly shook, but, it still didn't break.

"It's still not enough!"

A deep sense of unwillingness surged in Lin Ming's mind. Even though he had ignored the ramifications of swallowing this latest 20% of the Grandmist Spirit Bead essence, the strength he needed was ultimately far too distant from being able to break through the

nine star dao diagram.

If this continued then it wouldn't be long before Lin Ming's body ruptured and his inner world exploded into pieces!

“Essence energy avatar, second seal, release!”

Lin Ming shouted out. The Essence Spirit Embryo Stone avatar that he inherited from within the bronze temple had a total of three seals. These three seals were left behind by the Asura Road Master and each successive seal was bound more tightly than the last.

The final seal was the most formidable. With Lin Ming's current cultivation he was unable to release it, but he was able to unbind the first two.

In the bronze temple, Lin Ming had undone the first seal. Using the strength that was released, he expanded his inner world and broke into the Divine Lord realm!

With Lin Ming's understanding of the Asura Heavenly Dao, he still wasn't able to fuse his true self with his avatar. He could only use the method of undoing this seal and obtaining energy from his avatar.

Bang!

When Lin Ming released the second seal there was a loud explosion like 10,000 bolts of thunder crashing down together, like endless God Beasts roaring out!

An indescribably dreadful strength erupted like a volcano, surging out like a tsunami. This strength flooded out from the Essence Spirit Embryo Stone avatar and all of that extra strength impacted straight towards Lin Ming!

Lin Ming's Essence Spirit Embryo stone avatar had already reached an inconceivable boundary in the intensity of its mortal body. As this wild and brutal power erupted from within it, it was still able to withstand it. However, Lin Ming's true self was

different. As this incomparably fierce strength flooded his body, in addition to everything before it, his body began to crack apart.

The reason Lin Ming crazily summoned all the strength he could was in order to shatter past the nine star dao diagram. As long as he could break through it then there would be a point where his strength could be released. He would be able to break into the next boundary and allow his strength to rapidly rise.

However, if the nine star dao diagram didn't break then everything would reverse. Lin Ming would die beneath the suppression of the nine star dao diagram and the havoc that was being wreaked upon him by it.

“Celestial Tyrant Manual – Hundred Layered Waves!”

In this black void, Lin Ming could only use the strength of body transformation. With his strength that reached 2 billion jins, he struck out with the Celestial Tyrant Manual's Hundred Layered Waves. In that moment, Lin Ming's bodily strength increased by several times, breaking straight past the critical point of 5 billion jins!

This horrifying strength crashed into the nine star dao diagram, causing it to violently shake!

Energy wildly raged outwards, causing the surrounding void to tear apart like scrap paper. A crack finally appeared in the nine star dao diagram!

Seeing this crack in the dao patterns, Lin Ming's eyes brightened. He was like a parched traveler in the desert who finally saw an oasis!

This crack was his final ray of hope. Otherwise, if this were to continue then his mortal body might not be able to last for another incense stick of time!

Bang!

Lin Ming's fist smashed out again and all the muscles of his right

arm split apart. Ignoring his collapsing body, he revolved the Celestial Tyrant Manual to the limit. The crack in the nine star dao diagram was expanded once more by Lin Ming's strike!

At this time, Lin Ming had already reached his limits. He bit down on his tongue, burning his blood essence through the Gate of Life. Then, he struck out with a third punch!

Kacha!

His bones released a deafening explosive sound as they shattered. Lin Ming's face twisted in pain. The bones in his right arm had completely shattered and his hand was hanging down at a strange angle; he was unable to make a fist!

"Damn it!"

For a time, Lin Ming's pupils shrank. As he stared at his ruined right arm his entire body shivered.

Without a continuous barrage, the crack in the nine star dao diagram began to slowly regenerate!

Even if one used absolute strength to tear down a dao diagram of the Heavenly Dao, it would still slowly recover.

Just a little bit more!

Lin Ming bit down with his teeth, a furious rage blazing within him. He still had his left arm but this left arm would at most be able to punch three more times. With these three punches it was impossible for him to break through the nine star dao diagram.

"Will the heavens kill me?"

Lin Ming was unwilling! He was less than 60 years old and had walked down the road of martial arts for just over 40 years. He had passed through many great storms, suffered many tribulations, defeated countless extraordinary individuals, and had passed through innumerable life or death dangers to arrive at this step. Through all that, he finally stood at the peak of all young human

geniuses!

How could he be willing to perish like this?

Although he had weakened, at the same time a terrifying energy wildly raged through his body, attacking his meridians!

There was the Grandmist Spirit Bead essence as well as the unsealed strength from the Essence Spirit Embryo Stone. These two strengths were both at the extreme yang. As they collided within Lin Ming's body, they were like two volcanoes erupting together!

These two extreme yang strengths weren't willing to submit to anyone, and with Lin Ming's ruined body it was impossible for him to subdue them. They continued to ravage through Lin Ming's body, using his body as a battlefield. If he wasn't able to suppress them then he could only wait for his body to explode into pieces!

"The Heavenly Dao does not abide me. In the end, am I unable to overcome the Heavenly Dao?"

Within Lin Ming's body, the two yang energies became increasingly wild, smashing into each other more and more, completely unable to be subdued. Lin Ming grit his teeth, his fingernails digging deep into his palm. With his current state, wanting to evenly stabilize these two yang energies was completely impossible.

The condition of his body became increasingly worse. His eye sockets began to crack apart and his eyes bled.

In that moment, he could feel death floating close by. In his life, he had only encountered this feeling once, when he had broken into the ninth stage of Life Destruction and experienced a nine by nine heavenly tribulation.

As Lin Ming was about to collapse and have the two energies blow up his body, he felt a soft, feminine yin energy enter his body. This strength was like a stream of clear spring water, revitalizing

his ruined body.

“This is...”

Lin Ming was startled. He could faintly feel this soft feminine strength slip in between the two fierce yang energies, causing those two violently clashing energies to calm down.

Although this strength was far from being as formidable as the two yang energies, it was pure to the extreme. The soft and soothing attributes of this energy was able to smoothly stabilize the two other energies, achieving a state of yin and yang balance.

“This is Xiao Moxian...”

Lin Ming immediately realized. At this time, the only one who could release such a pure and soft blood vitality was Xiao Moxian.

From this soft feminine strength, Lin Ming could sense the rich energies of phoenix blood. As it was light and clear as water, it also carried with it a faint aura of flames.

But what surprised Lin Ming was that this strength was completely different from the time when he and Xiao Moxian held hands. Not only was Xiao Moxian sending out her True Phoenix blood energy, but it carried the aura of life force, as if this energy came from her source of life.

“Phoenix blood essence!?”

Lin Ming’s mind shook. His consciousness forcefully withdrew from the black void where he was attempting to break through to the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace and his eyes shot open to see Xiao Moxian.

At this time, Primordius Heavenly Palace was completely wrapped up in the divine light of the nine stars. Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian were placed within this endless world of starlight. She held onto his hand, her bright red lips open as a stream of rich blood energy fluttered out from between them and towards Lin Ming.

This power of blood vitality transformed into the appearance of phoenixes in midair. They were beautiful and enchanting, releasing clear and pleasant cries.

This was Xiao Moxian's source blood energy and also her True Phoenix blood essence!

In the past, one could see how precious phoenix blood essence was from how much the Ancient Phoenix Clan treasured just a single drop. And, the Ancient Phoenix Clan's phoenix blood essence came from the dead body of a phoenix, drawn out using a secret technique. That blood essence had been preserved for countless years and was far inferior to Xiao Moxian's phoenix blood essence in terms of purity; her phoenix blood essence was brimming with life!

Moreover, the Ancient Phoenix Clan's phoenix blood essence had come from the corpse of a phoenix that was thousands of miles long. That phoenix corpse had a tremendous amount of blood essence within it, so how could a single drop of that compare to the pure and highly condensed phoenix blood essence within Xiao Moxian?

A phoenix that underwent nine stages of nirvana could burn their blood essence infinitely without damaging their life source at all. But, this was restricted to burning their blood essence. If they were to give their blood essence to others, that would be a permanent loss, one that was extremely difficult to recover from!

This could be said to be Xiao Moxian's most precious thing. It was what the countless individuals who tried to obtain her body considered to be the most valuable treasure!

But now, Xiao Moxian was directly giving this phoenix blood essence to Lin Ming to stabilize the two violent yang energies within him.

“Ji Xian'er!”

Lin Ming anxiously shouted out. If Xiao Moxian gave him her blood essence then not only would this affect her current cultivation but also her future lifespan and achievements!

Hearing Lin Ming's shouting, Xiao Moxian opened her eyes. Her pupils were dark like the bottom of a lake, as cold as an iceberg.

"Why are you doing this? This kindness is too heavy." Lin Ming was unable to shoulder this burden. "If you give me your life's most precious blood essence, then even if I break through to the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace it will still injure your life source and cause permanent damage to your cultivation. How will I have the face to stand tall in this world?"

The blood essence in Xiao Moxian's body was no trifling matter.

A martial artist with a weaker cultivation could restore their lost blood essence without much difficulty. But for someone like Xiao Moxian, her blood essence could be called that of the highest grade within the entire Divine Realm. Once she lost her blood essence then restoring it would be incomparably hard, a journey filled with endless hardships.

Listening to Lin Ming's words, Xiao Moxian lightly sighed. "We both might die here. If you don't break through to the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace, do you think I will still live on?"

Speaking to here, she seemed to suddenly remember something. She said in an extremely quiet voice, "In the future, won't you and I be mortal enemies? If I give my blood essence to you and discard my own bloodline, then my grandfather and the Monster Emperor will have no need for me to become the future ruler of their two races. Then, I'll have saved you the trouble of having to fight with me. Isn't that just wonderful?"

Chapter 1530 - For Forever, My Blood Will Mark You

Hearing Xiao Moxian's words, Lin Ming was dazed. He didn't know just how to reply.

Xiao Moxian didn't know why she would unexpectedly say such strange and dismal words that would not only make Lin Ming unhappy, but also herself. It seemed as if she wanted to vent all of the bitterness and resentment in her heart.

She apologetically smiled, saying, "Some matters are too troublesome. Carelessly speaking about them might affect your mood to break through."

Lin Ming was silent for a moment. He could feel a peculiar pain in his heart, one that he found hard to face. He finally said, "I'm sorry, I know."

"You don't know." Xiao Moxian shook her head, earnestly looking towards Lin Ming, her eyes seeming to flash with some strange crystalline light. "You don't know... how scared I was when I entered Tragic Death Valley. My personality favors liveliness and fun, and what I cannot stand the most is unending loneliness and the infinite dark. When I entered Tragic Death Valley I really, really wanted to leave. I thought that if I had to stay there for hundreds of years then I would turn insane.

"But afterwards, something I never expected happened... those nine years of days and nights were not as fearful as I thought they would be. From the time I was born to now, I have seen numerous spiritual lands that are beautiful beyond description. I've seen floating celestial mountains and neverending fields of paradise... and yet, no matter how much I try to recall those places, I have no impression of them. Instead, during my nine years in Tragic Death Valley, facing the eternal dark and the piles of bones, those days, are actually a time that I will never forget. In the depths of that

darkness and misery, to have someone I could rely upon is really... something I will remember all my life.”

Xiao Moxian suddenly laughed. She was finally speaking the words she didn't know how to say. Without suppressing them in her heart, without caring for what would result, without caring for what Lin Ming thought of them, just saying them was enough.

“Sometimes, I even thought that it wouldn't be bad if we never left. At least, I would never have to think about us being enemies in the future nor would I have to deal with so many troubling matters... of course, I knew you would never agree to not leaving.”

Lin Ming was shocked for some time. He still held onto Xiao Moxian's hand. The soft and tender touch of her hand brought with it an indescribable gentleness, like a piece of pure jade immersed in running water.

In that moment, Lin Ming could feel the burden of a heavy emotion on his back, one he didn't know how to face.

“I'm sorry...” Lin Ming finally said these weak and feeble words after a long period of silence.

However, Xiao Moxian actually laughed in response, a laugh as bright and cheerful as spring flowers. “There's nothing you should be sorry to me about. You were the one who saved my life, and entering Tragic Death Valley with you is something that I have never regretted and will never regret. Giving you my life source blood is also something I do not regret. In the future, even if we never meet again, my blood will always flow within your body, becoming a mark upon your bloodline, accompanying you for the rest of your life. You can try as much as you want Lin Ming, but you'll never be able to throw me away.”

Speaking to here, Xiao Moxian seemed to laugh in an increasingly happy manner. The corners of her lips lifted up in a smile to reveal two cute canines.

For a time, Lin Ming turned silly.

“Now, go and break through to the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace if you can. I don’t want to die here.”

Xiao Moxian cupped Lin Ming’s cheek, her voice serious. Lin Ming silently looked into her bright eyes and solemnly nodded.

This was his promise to Xiao Moxian, and also a promise to himself.

He couldn’t bear the feelings of Xiao Moxian. All he could do now was summon as much strength as he could and attack the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace.

The energy within his body was equalized by Xiao Moxian’s blood essence and had already begun to slowly stabilize. In this state, even Lin Ming’s meridian channels and blood vessels that had torn apart due to the violent energy began to restore themselves. This was the effect of yin yang harmony.

Lin Ming closed his eyes, returning to that endless dark void once more. He faced the nine stars hanging in the skies, seven of them bright, two of them dark.

In that moment, Lin Ming could feel flames burning in his heart. In his broken right hand, the flesh and blood constantly regenerated as the meridian channels regrew.

He cried out loud and shot into the skies. The Eight Inner Hidden Gates opened altogether. Behind Lin Ming, the phantom of a True Dragon appeared, roaring out!

Celestial Tyrant Manual – Hundred Layered Waves!

Bang!

With a loud explosion the void was collapsed by Lin Ming’s fist. The Heavenly Dao lines that wove into a nine star dao diagram were shaken by Lin Ming’s strike, causing a crack to appear within it.

Seeing this crack, the light in Lin Ming's eyes brightened. He roared out again, his fists punching at the same place.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

Lin Ming punched again and again. Blood splashed out from his fists, alarming and startling!

Without caring for the violent flows of energy surging through his body, the nine star dao diagram continued to shake as the crack grew larger and larger!

The Heavenly Dao Laws seemed to become furious, as if Lin Ming's crazy barrage was the reason. The Great Dao lines wildly gathered, converging towards Lin Ming and pressing down on him!

Krik krik krack!

The bones throughout Lin Ming's body emitted explosive crackling sounds. Fresh blood leaked out, dyeing his entire body deep red.

However, Lin Ming ignored all of this. He continued his onslaught on the nine star dao diagram!

The crack in the dao diagram grew larger with each punch, each punch coming at the cost of Lin Ming's breaking body.

"Just a little bit more, a little bit more!"

Lin Ming's eyes were blood red as he cried out from his lungs.

But at this moment, he suddenly felt the skies around him tremble. The entire world seemed to tumble around him, all the origin energy becoming restless!

"What!?"

This sudden change shocked Lin Ming. This strength did not come from the Heavenly Dao Laws, but an external force!

Lin Ming's mind turned cold. A foreboding feeling surged within him.

Then, a maniacal voice echoed through the air, “Lin Ming, you want to break through the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace!? You want to defy the Heavenly Dao Laws!? Keep on dreaming! But no matter how hopeless you are, I will not allow you the slightest chance of success. I will lay down a grand Void Locking Array around you, separating you from the starlight of those nine stars so that your ridiculously pathetic attempt at a breakthrough will fail outright! I want your body to collapse and your boundary to fall! Hahahaha!”

This maddening cackle came from Tian Mingzi!

Outside of Primordius Heavenly Palace, Tian Mingzi was still fighting the iron-armored spectral soldiers. According to his original plan, he needed to use several hours to slowly fight so that he could preserve his strength and reduce his wounds to the minimum, defeating the iron-armored spectral soldiers with the lowest possible price.

After that, he could lay down an enchantment to seal up the exit to Bai Qi’s tomb. Once that was complete he could meditate to restore himself to his peak condition and then begin to refine Primordius Heavenly Palace.

This was the safest and most effective method. As long as he could restore his strength then Lin Ming was as good as dead.

However, during this battle, Tian Mingzi saw the space above Primordius Heavenly Palace vanish, suddenly revealing an endless void. And at the peak of this endless void were nine stars!

After being stunned for a brief moment, he immediately understood that this was a phenomenon that was summoned by Lin Ming’s attempt at breaking through the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace!

The Nine Stars of the Dao Palace was exclusive to the human race’s body transformation system. The saint race and demon race both practiced a different cultivation system that was different from the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace. 3.6 billion years ago, martial

artists that cultivated the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace to the peak were no weaker than those who cultivated the essence gathering system.

But now, because of some unknown change in the Heavenly Dao Laws, the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace became an impossible goal to reach. But, once one managed to reach it, one's strength would become even more terrifying. If Lin Ming broke into the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace then not even gods would know what would happen.

Although Tian Mingzi didn't believe Lin Ming had the ability to do so, he wasn't willing to give him even the slimmest chance to succeed. He immediately desperately attacked the iron-armored spectral soldiers, wanting to break them all as soon as possible. Once he did so, he could interfere with Lin Ming's breakthrough attempt!

At this time, Tian Mingzi's entire body was soaked with blood. His shoulder and lower abdomen had been pierced by two deep spears and were dripping blood. Horrifying wounds covered his entire body and his spine had nearly been severed in half. His left arm had been cut off but only forcefully reattached using an arcane technique.

Tian Mingzi had paid a deeply tragic price in order to break the iron-armored spectral soldier array.

He didn't have time to heal his wounds. After hurriedly swallowing down some pills, he pulled out an array disc from his spatial ring and tossed it in the air. His hands formed numerous seals. But, because his left hand had been cut off and reattached, the meridians and blood vessels had yet to fully regenerate and his movements weren't as accurate. The speed at which he formed seals was much slower than before.

Woosh! Woosh! Woosh!

The array disc spun around, sprinkling chaotic black light that

covered Primordius Heavenly Palace, cutting off the energy connection between Primordius Heavenly Palace and the outside world!

And at this time, Tian Mingzi stepped on the void. He held his black sword in his hands, spookily whispering, “Frenzied blood, become heart demons, indomitable might of the Heavenly Dao, follow my blade! Cut!”

For a time, the entire Primordius Heavenly Palace was shrouded in a vast dark demon light!

The sword light was blocked by Primordius Heavenly Palace’s array formation but there were still some illusions that seemed to permeate into Primordius Heavenly Palace.

“Hahaha! Lin Ming, in my presence, you still want to make a breakthrough!? In the past, with my status as a core disciple, I exterminated the entire Verdant Feather Holy Lands! The old Holy Lord of the Verdant Feather Holy Lands was a Great World King! And at that time, I was only an early World King. It was at the exact time that he was trying to recklessly make a breakthrough in his boundary that I used my secret demonic arts to galvanize the heart demons within him. Not only did he fail his breakthrough, but his cultivation boundary was severely damaged! Then, I killed him! Even a Great World King died beneath my hands, much less someone like you!

“Everyone has heart demons, and the more powerful a martial artist is, the more formidable their heart demons are. When a martial artist makes a breakthrough, they must face their heart demons; this is an inevitable truth. This is also the time when martial artists are at their weakest. Moreover, not only are you trying to make a breakthrough but you are defying the will of the heavens to do so, and because of that you have to face heavenly tribulation also! Just give up any hope you had!”

Tian Mingzi wildly laughed. His voice was like a demonic spell

that attacked Primordius Heavenly Palace!

Primordius Heavenly Palace's array formation had blocked Tian Mingzi's sword light and most of the striking power, but a part of the energy still submerged into the Heavenly Palace.

Although Primordius Heavenly Palace's was wonderfully skilled, it wasn't able to isolate out everything, otherwise the starlight from the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace wouldn't have been able to fall past the array formation.

Tian Mingzi's sword light was easily blocked by Primordius Heavenly Palace. However, it couldn't completely block this strange and bizarre heart demon technique.

For some time, Lin Ming felt illusions grow thick in his mind. The nine star dao diagram that was almost torn apart suddenly seemed much farther away.

"Damn!" Lin Ming's complexion darkened, his heart quickening with urgency.

Chapter 1531 – Crimson Space

Lin Ming's breakthrough was originally defying the heavens' will to forcefully change one's life. To break through the chains of the Heavenly Dao was indescribably difficult. Even though Lin Ming's mortal bodily foundation had reached this degree of tempering, he still only had a 10% chance of succeeding. Finally, he still had to rely on absorbing Xiao Moxian's phoenix blood essence in order to have some hopes of succeeding.

In this sort of situation, Lin Ming simply wasn't able to tolerate any interference.

And Tian Mingzi was doing things to the extreme; he didn't want to give Lin Ming even the smallest chance of rising back up. Even if he had to desperately damage his blood vitality and affect his future cultivation, he still wouldn't hesitate!

"Lin Ming, your life is too resilient. You being my enemy is a challenge to my own destiny, the most dangerous risk! I will stop at nothing in order to kill you, today is the day you die!"

Ever since ancient times, those who dared to oppose extraordinary individuals with great destinies always had to face enormous risks. Not to mention the world of martial artists, even in the mortal world, those emperors that founded their own kingdoms would have to face countless assassination attempts as they tried to rule the world. And in the end, all of those assassins would fail!

Tian Mingzi crazily raved. Not only did he use his heart demon technique but he also attacked Primordius Heavenly Palace at the same time, causing the entire Heavenly Palace to tremble!

If Primordius Heavenly Palace trembled, that would inevitably cause the energy around Lin Ming to become chaotic. Moreover, with the addition of the ghostly illusion energy, all of this caused Lin Ming to have even more difficulties in his breakthrough.

“Hah!”

Lin Ming’s eyes were red with rage. He roared out loud as his fist smashed out. Swathes of illusions were shattered by his fist, but when this fist reached the nine star dao diagram it had already weakened by a great deal. Finally, it only tore open an infinitesimally small part of the dao diagram, one not even worthy of mentioning.

Not just this, but the nine star dao diagram slowly regenerated. If Lin Ming couldn’t tear open the nine star dao diagram then the result would be defeat!

If his breakthrough failed then Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian would both die!

“Lin Ming!”

In Primordius Heavenly Palace, Xiao Moxian was anxious. She continued to hold Lin Ming’s hand. Because she had consumed her source blood vitality, her face was pale as if she were sick.

She grit her teeth, opening her lips wide once again to pass more of her phoenix blood essence to Lin Ming.

At this time, Xiao Moxian’s smooth and soft arms and body were weightless, as if she would fall into Lin Ming’s embrace at any moment.

In the dark void, Lin Ming was concerned as he felt the pure strength of Xiao Moxian’s phoenix blood essence enter him. She had already used up a great deal of her blood essence. If she were to use up any more then the damage would be inconceivable!

“Ji Xian’er, do not pass me the energy of your blood vitality!”

Lin Ming shouted out, but Xiao Moxian didn’t stop at all. Lin Ming became increasingly anxious. “Ji Xian’er, even if you pass me your phoenix blood essence it will only allow the two yang energies within my body to achieve yin yang harmony, but I actually cannot fuse them. With Tian Mingzi disturbing me, I won’t be able to

break through the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace like this!”

Lin Ming was burning with impatience, his eyes widened to the point of cracking. There was too much weighing down on his shoulders and yet he couldn’t fulfill his promise.

He hated himself. He was unwilling!

“Break for me!”

Lin Ming roared out loud, his entire body releasing explosive crackling sounds. He burned the Gate of Life’s blood essence without regard for the consequences in exchange for strength that he could barely control. The meridians all throughout his body began to tear apart.

Celestial Tyrant Manual – Hundred Layered Waves!

Lin Ming’s fist punched out through burning his life to the limit. His strike smashed through the illusions and crashed into the nine star dao diagram, causing a shocking gap to be ripped open!

However, as Lin Ming tore through the nine star dao diagram, he could sense infinite ghosts and illusions swell up from all around him, attacking his innermost feelings! The fiercer Lin Ming’s attack was, the more energy he released and the more emotional his heart was, making it much easier to experience a backlash of his heart demons.

Puff!

Lin Ming spat out a mouthful of blood. His vision dimmed and he was sent flying backwards.

Kacha! Kacha!

The nine star illusions shattered and Lin Ming’s consciousness was ejected into the endless void. Like this, his breakthrough had already reached the brink of failure!

Outside of Primordius Heavenly Palace, Tian Mingzi had also realized this point. He devilishly grinned.

Although he couldn't see what was happening inside of Primordius Heavenly Palace, he could extrapolate what was occurring from the starlight outside that suddenly dimmed down.

“Nearly 20 years of grudges will be brought to completion today!”

Tian Mingzi lifted his grievously wounded body and bit down on his tongue, taking out a wisp of blood essence. He wet his finger with this blood essence and began to draw a scarlet blood symbol in the air!

Curse of the Demon Heart!

Peng!

As this curse seal landed on Primordius Heavenly Palace's array formation, Lin Ming shook like he had been struck and began to fall down.

“Lin Ming!”

Seeing Lin Ming fall down, Xiao Moxian felt like someone had violently gripped her heart. She stretched out her delicate arms, embracing Lin Ming against her chest.

Xiao Moxian's front was dyed red with blood. Lin Ming felt as if he had fallen into a bath of warm and fragrant incense; all he could smell was the fresh virgin scent of beauty.

He opened his eyes. What he saw was Xiao Moxian's pale face and her two eyes filled with tears.

Xiao Moxian tightly held onto Lin Ming. At this moment, it was like only the two of them existed in this world. At their time of death, they could still lean upon each other.

“If we die here, will you regret it?” Xiao Moxian asked, her whispering lips close to Lin Ming's ear.

Lin Ming's nearly torn open eyes revealed a rare tenderness in this moment. He gently shook his head.

At this time, it was like all the sounds of the world had fallen far

away.

Xiao Moxian suddenly cried, large drops of tears falling down her cheeks. “At the precipice of death, when someone is accompanying you, dying doesn’t seem as scary as it should. But Lin Ming, I don’t want you to die. I will give you my everything... and when you break through the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace and escape from here, you will live on for a billion years, a trillion years, and my blood will always follow you!”

As Xiao Moxian said this, she seemed to affirm a great determination. She wrapped her hands around Lin Ming’s head and bent down over him, deeply kissing him.

Two pairs of warm lips brought with them a hint of blood as they touched together.

In that instant, time seemed to come to a standstill. In the endless starry skies, Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian hugged each other, dark enchanting blood red flowers seeming to bloom all around them.

That charming moment nearly made Lin Ming fall into intoxication. However, he soon awakened from this drunken state and discovered that as Xiao Moxian was kissing him, she was pouring all of her phoenix blood essence through this kiss, as if she wanted him to inherit every last drop within her body!

Once she did this, she would perish like broken jade!

“You...”

Lin Ming wanted to shove Xiao Moxian away, but she had tightly latched onto him, not releasing him no matter how much he struggled.

“No... don’t do this!”

Lin Ming passed a sound transmission on with difficulty. “Even if you give me all of your blood essence... I cannot fuse with it so soon... and if it's just bringing those two yang energies into

harmony, the blood vitality you passed me before was more than enough!”

Even if Xiao Moxian poured all of her phoenix blood essence into Lin Ming, he still wouldn’t be able to directly absorb it like that. When Lin Ming absorbed the bone of an Azure Dragon in the past, he had consumed a great deal of strength to do so. Although his cultivation was far higher than it was back then, Xiao Moxian’s phoenix blood essence was hundreds and thousands of times purer than the strength of the Azure Dragon within him.

“Can’t fuse? Then I’ll fuse with you!”

Xiao Moxian’s kiss became increasingly intense and fiery. Her body seemed to melt into his, joining together with him as one.

As blood vitality continued streaming into him, Lin Ming was becoming increasingly restless. Raising up his wounded body, he tried to push Xiao Moxian away, but in the chaos and confusion of the moment, he felt his hands shoving against an indescribable softness.

Looking down, Lin Ming could see that his hands were pressed onto Xiao Moxian’s womanly peaks. The two solid peaks on her chest were pushed down by Lin Ming, containing a wondrous bounciness.

In that moment, Xiao Moxian groaned and her body trembled. She wanted to move back but her body instinctively softened, falling into Lin Ming as if she had no more strength left within her.

Her face was lit with a sunset glow illuminating the dappled waters. Her two hands wound up like snakes, winding around Lin Ming’s neck as she affectionately kissed him. Her small red tongue roamed about, sucking on Lin Ming’s everything.

In this time, a strength beyond description passed between their lips and spread to Lin Ming’s limbs and bones. This strength was different from the phoenix blood essence that Xiao Moxian had fed

to him, but its degree of purity was no less than her source blood essence. And most importantly, this strength wasn't blocked from fusing together with Lin Ming. Their two bodies seemed to melt together as one. This was Xiao Moxian's primordial yin energy. When she offered it freely without reserve, her aura was easily able to fuse with Lin Ming.

For a time, Lin Ming was overcome with chaotic sentiments. His heart filled with the fires of desire. He wanted to press Xiao Moxian beneath his body and wildly make love to her!

She was a perfect woman of the world and carried with her an indescribable gentleness and sharp mind. Even though Lin Ming's goal was to chase after the peak of martial arts and he had cultivated to the point of having a mind as still as water, it was still impossible for him to prevent the heated feelings growing in his heart.

However, Lin Ming still maintained a trace of clarity in his mind. He was deeply aware of what the word responsibility meant. His union with Xiao Moxian was something that the demon race and monster race would not permit no matter what, and if he took her primordial yin then this would cause a tremendous impact on her future.

The future... was an unknown. In fulfilling the desires of today, they might have to trade it for a painful consequence in the future.

'I'm married...' Lin Ming said, finding it hard to say.

"And so what?" Xiao Moxian's body suddenly shook. She slowly separated from Lin Ming's burning hot lips. She faced him, just several inches away, staring at his face, her eyes so pure that no one would want to injure her.

Lin Ming was at a loss for how to respond.

"I am not looking for some ending with you, nor do I have any hope that I will be together with you in the future. I just want to

kiss you, simply give you my body. Isn't that something you want?"

Xiao Moxian's voice trembled as she spoke. The tears in her eyes shined, sparkling as they tumbled downwards like little motes of starlight.

With a soft touch, Xiao Moxian's tears fell onto Lin Ming's face as they broke apart like shattered crystals.

At this time, Lin Ming was dazed.

Chapter 1532 – Union of Phoenix and Dragon

Lin Ming stiffened. Xiao Moxian's words echoed in his heart and stirred an inexplicable pain. He felt that this love was too heavy, something he could not afford to bear.

"I... am not deserving enough for you to do this. If Senior Demondawn were to find out about all this then how would you continue to hold your head up high in the monster race and demon race?"

If the demon and monster races really did sign a pact with the saints then Xiao Moxian might be married off to the Good Fortune Saint Son. If so, then Xiao Moxian deciding by herself to make love to Lin Ming today would be a great crime of betraying her own people. Not only would Empyrean Demondawn lose all face with his race, but so would Xiao Moxian!

"It's enough as long as I think you are deserving!" Xiao Moxian sobbed, her voice cracking as she vented her grievances. She grasped Lin Ming, saying to him, "Why do you have to bring up these matters, why do you have to bring up my grandfather? Today is only today. Can't you stop lying to me and make me happy? I won't think about what the future brings nor do I want to."

Xiao Moxian began to strip off her clothes as she spoke. Her fingers trembled as she undid her ties and her upper clothes began to fall off, revealing her smooth neck and snow white skin.

"My body, my primordial yin and phoenix blood, countless people have desired them. I give you my body without asking for anything in return and without caring for what the future may bring... as long as you want it."

Xiao Moxian's eyes were wet with tears and her cheeks were

blushing red. With a flick of her finger, all of the clothes she wore burst into flames!

The brilliant flames flashed, burning her clothes into fading ash. Then, her body, the delicate and supple body of a young woman, pressed up against Lin Ming, leaving a shine in his eyes.

Her slender waist, her slender thighs, Xiao Moxian was filled with the beauty of a young woman in her prime, an enchanting beauty as mesmerizing as the brightly lit moon...

Underneath the endless starry skies, starlight sprinkled down on Xiao Moxian's perfect body, covering her with a faint veil like liquid mercury. In that moment, Lin Ming's breath caught in his throat. The Xiao Moxian in front of him was far too beautiful, far too dazzling, making it impossible for anyone to look straight at her.

Xiao Moxian pressed her finger against Lin Ming. Before he could respond, his clothes also burnt away, leaving them exposed to each other without the slightest barrier of clothing.

An unspeakably soft touch, the atmosphere of a young girl that could enthrall anyone, all of this challenged the final bit of brightness in Lin Ming's mind.

Loving lips kissed Lin Ming. Two soft white arms slid around his back like snakes. In that moment, Lin Ming nearly lost his mind.

Even though Xiao Moxian didn't ask for any result between them in freely offering her body today, Lin Ming wasn't willing to have Xiao Moxian lose all standing within her two races.

To a girl, especially one considered a Saintess in the eyes of the monster and demon races, reputation was extremely important. With Lin Ming's personality, he refused to ruin her good name.

But...

Perhaps he had the ability to change things!

If he was strong enough then he could be the one to give Empyrean Demondawn and the Monster Emperor what they wanted. If he could do this then he could reverse their situation with the saint race and there would be no need to sacrifice Xiao Moxian!

In that moment, Lin Ming felt a firm resolve in his heart, one that he had never felt as deeply before. He needed strength! He needed strength beyond strength!

And, the premise to achieving all of this was...

If he could face Tian Mingzi and survive!

As all of this passed through his mind, Lin Ming growled. He picked up Xiao Moxian from his body and pressed her to him. His hands recklessly roamed over her body, feeling all over her without anything separating them.

He could feel the softness pressing against his chest. He affectingly traced her back, traced her curved bottom, and stroked her soft thighs.

Sensing the sudden change in Lin Ming's thoughts, Xiao Moxian felt as if she was melting. She enthusiastically responded by sucking on Lin Ming's skin.

Her warm tongue lapped up Lin Ming, teasing him all over. The desires within Lin Ming exploded like a volcano. Finally, he couldn't bear it anymore and thrust into her body.

Xiao Moxian cried out as a strange and aching feeling passed through her. She could feel that there was no barrier that existed between her and Lin Ming fusing together. She had no idea why she cried out, but she wasn't able to suppress it from echoing out of her throat.

She stretched out a shivering hand and stroked Lin Ming's cheek. "Lin Ming, do you know? If we were to die in the next moment I would not be afraid of anything at all."

“You won’t die. We will live on, I’m sure of this!”

Lin Ming’s voice was firm. He thrust into Xiao Moxian’s body, again and again.

The energy within Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian became turbulent. The phoenix blood essence that entered Lin Ming’s body finally fused together with the two yang energies, rushing into him like a tide.

As for the power of blood vitality inherited from the Essence Spirit Embryo Stone and the ancient Black Dragon energy that he absorbed from the God Beast Tomb array formation, all of that poured into Xiao Moxian.

This energy flooded through Xiao Moxian’s body, intertwining with the waves of pleasure that coursed through her as she made love to Lin Ming. Xiao Moxian cried out again and again, unable to prevent groans from leaking out from her overwhelmed senses.

Her face was like a red tide, flirtatious and loving. Through the blending of their blood vitality, not only did Xiao Moxian not lose any phoenix blood essence but the yin yang harmony within her began to rapidly rise and her inner world constantly expanded.

From the peak of the Divine Transformation realm, she was nearing the Divine Lord realm!

Xiao Moxian had absorbed a massive amount of the grandmist spirit bead essence. However, she still hadn’t been able to break through to the Divine Lord realm. For some reason, she had been missing just the tiniest spot. Now, she finally understood that her failure wasn’t because she hadn’t accumulated enough energy, but because the Grandmist Spirit Bead essence was far too yang attributed. If she couldn’t achieve yin yang harmony then it would have been near impossible for her to make a breakthrough.

A brilliant divine light began to shine out from Xiao Moxian’s

lower abdomen, completely surrounding her and Lin Ming. Beneath the cover of this light, Xiao Moxian's strength rapidly rose!

Woosh!

The remaining Grandmist Spirit Bead essence was summoned out by Lin Ming. It dissolved in the air, turning into two mighty streams of gray energy that submerged into Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian's bodies. Thus, the Grandmist Spirit Bead essence had been completely absorbed by Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian!

In that moment, the endless starlight of the universe gathered around Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian, forming a swirling whirlpool of dreamy starlight around them.

In this sort of enthralling and confusing environment, Lin Ming made love to his heart's content. He kissed Xiao Moxian's lips, kissed her slender pale neck, and kissed her bright red nipples.

All the energy within his body merged together with Xiao Moxian as one. But compared to Xiao Moxian, Lin Ming's harvests were far greater!

The energy brought forth by Xiao Moxian's primordial yin blood was different from the Grandmist Spirit Bead essence that Lin Ming absorbed as well as the strength sealed within the Essence Spirit Embryo Stone. However, these energies weren't much stronger. With a pure strength joining with them, all of this power came into equilibrium, fusing together in Lin Ming's body where he could utilize all of it!

His mortal body began to subtly change. His broken meridians began to regenerate, becoming even tougher than before. His skeleton developed a crystalline luster and even his battle spirit that had been stranded at the early blue soul realm seemed as if it would make another breakthrough!

Anf!

A resonant dragon roar echoed out. From between Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian, the phantom of an Azure Dragon flew upwards. But following that, there was also a clear phoenix cry as a Dark Phoenix phantom shot up into the skies. The True Dragon and True Phoenix danced in the void, both of them rejoicing in life.

The True Dragon phantom was flooded with thunder and flame. As for the Dark Phoenix phantom, it was filled with pitch black flames, flames that seemed as if they could burn down the world.

“This fiery atmosphere, these are the flames that Xiao Moxian has comprehended, the phoenix nirvana true flame!”

In that instant, Lin Ming obtained a deeper comprehension of fire. Lin Ming’s attainments in the Concept of Fire had been at the sixth level; he had been stuck at this boundary for an extremely long time.

No matter what Law it was, the further one’s comprehensions were, the more difficult it was to comprehend more. But now, as Lin Ming made love to Xiao Moxian and their energies joined together without reserve, Lin Ming was able to deeply experience the true meaning of Xiao Moxian’s phoenix flames. His Concept of Fire pressed up against the threshold of the seventh level!

Ka ka ka!

Meanwhile, beneath Lin Ming, Xiao Moxian’s inner world was experiencing earth-shattering changes. The boundaries of her inner world broke apart and endless starlight and boundless energy rushed in, nourishing this world!

This energy formed origin energy clouds in the skies, followed by origin energy rain!

Underneath the revitalization of this origin energy rain, all the myriad lives began to regenerate. All sorts of spirit trees and spirit grasses grew with glee. In just several short breaths of time, lingzhi and ginsengs grew to the ages of tens of thousands of years. There

were even some spirit grasses that developed their own spirits, forming plump fruits like little porcelain dolls that fell to the ground and began racing and hopping about in joy.

Xiao Moxian had finally broken into the Divine Lord realm!

Moreover, she was a Divine Lord that far surpassed others at her step. In terms of the essence gathering system alone, Xiao Moxian was no worse than Lin Ming.

In the breakthrough process, Xiao Moxian's body became increasingly hot. This type of heat transmitted through Lin Ming's loins, giving him an indescribably pleasurable feeling. Finally, with a loud roar, he released his life essence into her.

Xiao Moxian stubbornly held onto Lin Ming's back. At this time, her entire body was flushed red as if she were burning up. She opened her eyes, her vision blurry, as if she found all of this extremely satisfying and yet extremely painful.

"Lin Ming, I'm hot, so hot..."

Xiao Moxian clutched onto Lin Ming in the throes of passion. This tempting scene nearly caused Lin Ming's blood to surge again, making him want to take hold of her and make wild love to her once more.

However, Lin Ming still retained a certain clarity in his mind. He could feel that something was off with the current situation. Xiao Moxian had just broken into the Divine Lord realm so she should be radiating energy and joy, with her strength soaring to the heavens. Yet why was her body releasing such a burning heat that even her consciousness was blurred?

As he probed Xiao Moxian's body with his divine sense, Lin Ming was immediately shocked. Within Xiao Moxian's inner world as well as her meridians, she was flooded with flames. This power of fire became increasingly wild and intense, as if it wanted to burn her to the ground.

Lin Ming also came from the Ancient Phoenix Clan and had pure phoenix blood essence fused into his body. Although it was much weaker than his Azure Dragon blood within him, Lin Ming was considered relatively knowledgeable about phoenixes. He immediately understood just what Xiao Moxian's situation meant.

“Nirvana... this is a phoenix's nirvana...”

Lin Ming was dumbfounded. At this time, Xiao Moxian was actually experiencing her phoenix nirvana!!

Chapter 1533 – Xiao Moxian's Nirvana

To undergo nirvana was the most important transformation of a phoenix's life. After undergoing nirvana, the mortal body of a phoenix would be thoroughly incinerated to ashes and a new life reborn in that sea of flames. The mortal body of this new life would be far more powerful than before and also have a certain ability – that was, to burn their blood essence to an unlimited degree.

A phoenix was the only existence in the world that could recklessly burn their blood essence and yet never have their blood essence fade away. By virtue of this ability alone, a phoenix was destined to stand at the highest level of all God Beasts!

Different phoenixes would undergo different numbers of nirvanas in their lifetime. The more powerful a phoenix and the purer their bloodline, the more nirvanas they would undergo. In their life, this type of phoenix might undergo two or three nirvanas. After this phoenix grew up, although they wouldn't be as strong as an Empyrean, their strength would still stand between a half-step Empyrean and an Empyrean.

However, in mythical tales, there were stories of phoenixes with royal bloodlines that would experience nine nirvanas in their lifetime! After nine nirvanas, they would become as formidable as a True God!

Xiao Moxian's entire body became increasingly hot, as if she were boiling. Her cheeks and her stomach all turned fiery red.

Lin Ming probed Xiao Moxian with his divine sense and discovered that her entire body and inner world was flooded with raging, overwhelming flames. These flames surged through her meridians and blood vessels, heating up her bones!

Lin Ming's eyelids shot up as he noticed this. A phoenix nirvana was not easy or simple. The richer and purer one's phoenix

bloodline was, the more terrifyingly powerful their nirvana would be once it erupted from their body. Xiao Moxian was undoubtedly talented and her nirvana would be no worse than experiencing heavenly tribulation.

“Lin Ming... I am hot... so hot...”

Xiao Moxian's consciousness dimmed, her eyes fluttering. She dazedly reached out a hand and grabbed onto Lin Ming, pulling herself into his embrace.

A burning heat filled Lin Ming's embrace. Xiao Moxian dripped with sweat, and as her sweat evaporated it covered them both with a thin layer of mist. At this point her eyes were blurred and she recklessly stroked Lin Ming's body as if she were under the effects of an aphrodisiac.

Her enchanting and upturning breasts were so flushed red they seemed as if they were ripe peaches, ready to drip juice. One couldn't help but want to knead them.

Facing this Xiao Moxian that was wildly rubbing and inflaming him, even though Lin Ming had just undergone a round of lovemaking he still felt fires burn in his loins. Yet, he didn't dare to needlessly move Xiao Moxian. He wasn't sure what Xiao Moxian's nirvana would be like and he feared that the slightest mistake would affect her crossing this tribulation.

In that moment, all sounds in the world seemed to fade away. As Lin Ming held onto Xiao Moxian while she dripped fragrant sweat all over him, he sat in meditation, his mind as still as water.

And at this time, outside Primordius Heavenly Palace, Tian Mingzi's barrage of attacks had slowed down.

Tian Mingzi's body was bathed in blood and his complexion was pale. He had clearly reached the point of exhaustion, a lamp without any oil remaining. As he looked at the dimmed down starlight that sprinkled from the nine stars above, his lips curved

up in a fiendish smile.

If those nine stars dimmed down, it clearly meant that Lin Ming's breakthrough into the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace was verging on failure.

“Lin Ming, you will soon fail your breakthrough to the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace. I want to see just how you'll continue to fight with me! Hahaha! I have waited for this day for far too long!”

Tian Mingzi's hair was disheveled and he staggered as he stood. In a severely wounded state he had used the Heart Demon Art as well as simultaneously attacking Primordius Heavenly Palace and blocking the light of the nine stars; he had long since become unstable.

He supported himself up with his black sword. “Strange, if Lin Ming failed in attacking the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace then that starlight should have completely vanished. Why is it still there in a dimmed down state?”

Tian Mingzi looked at those nine stars that seemed as if they would disappear at any moment and yet stubbornly hung on. “Whatever, I have already won. After attacking the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace and failing, Lin Ming will surely encounter a backlash. The fate of those that recklessly try to resist heavenly tribulation must be miserable indeed, hahaha! Right now he must be bloodied and suffocating to death. Good, then let me fan the fires once more!”

As Tian Mingzi thought like this, he swallowed down a medicinal pill. His face immediately flushed red with blood. This medicinal pill clearly stirred up his blood vitality. This was not an ordinary pill. Normally speaking, taking such a pill would have tremendous side effects and one would never use them unless it was a critical moment.

After swallowing this pill, Tian Mingzi's eyes flashed with a dark and evil light. He formed more and more seals with his hands, the

bright red seals he produced slamming into Primordius Heavenly Palace!

Bang!

The power of these blood seals sunk into Primordius Heavenly Palace and headed towards Xiao Moxian.

“Tian Mingzi!”

A glimmer of hatred shined in Lin Ming’s eyes. He punched out his fists and struck those bright red blood seals. In that moment, all the strength in his body fused together as one, and with a loud explosive sound, the blood seals shattered. Lin Ming’s body merely shook in response, the blood within him moving restlessly.

This strike filled Lin Ming with joy. He could feel that his own strength had increased by a large margin. Even if he hadn’t made a true breakthrough into the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace, his body transformation and essence gathering systems had experienced rapid growth.

And when Lin Ming punched through these blood seals, he could feel something soft fall deeper into his embrace and two delicate arms wrap around his neck. Those heated soft breasts drew close to his own, their softness and touch beyond description. Lin Ming looked at Xiao Moxian a bit dazedly, his mouth parched.

“You’re about to undergo nirvana soon... what... do you want?” Lin Ming gulped, not sure where to place his hands.

Xiao Moxian licked her lips, slowly saying, “I want to dual cultivate with you.”

Her eyes were still blurred but she had sobered up a great deal. “That feeling just now felt far better than I thought it would, I want to try it again...”

“Uh...” Lin Ming wanted to say that this was her nirvana and randomly doing something might not be the wisest idea. But before he could say anything, he could feel Xiao Moxian push him

down and straddle his waist, riding him from above.

Xiao Moxian, who had just been introduced to the affairs between men and women, not only did she not have the shyness of a virgin anymore, but she instead had a wild taste to her. Her luxurious black hair fell down in waves, dancing in the air. At that moment, Lin Ming felt his body burning all over!

The fires of nirvana within her passed through the contact of their bodies. These flames broke into his inner world and fused with the Heretical God Tree!

This fusion startled Lin Ming. It felt as if it wasn't Xiao Moxian experiencing nirvana alone, but it was as if he was experiencing it together with her.

Suddenly, energy surged through Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian. Inexplicably, some dual cultivation methods flashed through Lin Ming's mind. Although he had never studied these methods before, with his perception and foundation, he had more than enough time to use them. Soon after, he displayed this technique with Xiao Moxian. Although this dual cultivation technique wasn't too profound, their bloodlines meshed together far too well, and even if they didn't use a dual cultivation method they still would have been able to reach a fusion of their essence, energy, and soul.

As their ecstasy reached the peak, Xiao Moxian's body suddenly melted. This was true disintegration. Her body shined with a brilliant light and blazing flames shone forth from her inner world, splendidly burning all around her.

These flames were not the shape of ordinary flames. Rather, they formed blossoming dark red lotuses in the void, as if they were truly material objects!

As these flames transformed into lotus flowers, their degree of heat was unimaginable!

The flames of a phoenix's nirvana were some of the most

terrifying flames in the endless world. Even though Lin Ming's Fire Laws had touched upon the seventh level Concept, he still couldn't withstand this heat.

But strangely, as Lin Ming was scorched by these flames, he felt euphoria beyond compare, as if the hotter his body became, the more pleasurable it was.

He held onto Xiao Moxian who nearly disappeared into flames, withstanding this heat. It was like they were both being melded together into a single flame, truly combining.

Divine light pierced through the void. Countless beautiful red lotuses opened all around Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian, their temperatures having reached inconceivable degrees. Even Lin Ming's body began to melt away.

Lin Ming also had phoenix blood within him. Although the quality was relatively low, after receiving Xiao Moxian's primordial yin, his phoenix blood could be said to have undergone a qualitative leap. It could be said that within the entire Ancient Phoenix Clan, there wasn't a single person who could compare with even 1% of his current bloodline.

Now, after being galvanized by Xiao Moxian's nirvanic flames, Lin Ming's own phoenix blood began to brilliantly burn, causing a nirvana fire tribulation within his inner world!

A phoenix's nirvana was not a light matter. The more powerful a phoenix, the truer this was. In most cases, although nirvana wouldn't fail, it would still consume a massive amount of origin energy; this was an inevitable truth.

However, Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian's nirvana was different. Seemingly because of their yin yang harmony or perhaps because of dragon and phoenix dual cultivation, the process of their nirvana was extremely smooth. Their mortal bodies melted away, becoming forms of energy. Their life forces and souls seemed to fuse together in this brilliant blaze of energy.

With a resonant phoenix cry, a black phoenix shot up into the skies, a phoenix flying to the highest heavens!

This phoenix was no phantom – it was Xiao Moxian's true body!

In that moment, Xiao Moxian had turned into a true phoenix, no longer that of a half-phoenix!

In the process of her nirvana, Xiao Moxian's essence, energy, and divine had been baptized and revitalized, growing at a horrifyingly ridiculous pace!

Originally, she had just broken into the Divine Lord realm, but now she had reached the peak of the early Divine Lord realm. She was just a single step away from entering the middle Divine Lord realm!

The terrifying speed at which her cultivation base rose completely shocked Lin Ming. This was the heaven-defying feature of one with a phoenix body. This was the monstrous talent of the royal phoenix bloodline!

Lin Ming also found it hard to estimate how strong Xiao Moxian currently was. He had only followed Xiao Moxian's nirvana and had obtained a massive advantage, but the advantage she had gained was at least 10 times greater than his!

In the endless starry skies, Xiao Moxian emitted a heart-warming keen. Her body began to condense within the blaze of flames. A brilliant red lotus opened up, revealing a proud womanly figure. At this point, every aspect of her could be called perfect, dazzling and blinding to the degree that it was nearly impossible to look at her straight on!

Chapter 1534 – Opening the Dao Palace

Xiao Moxian floated high in the air, lofty and proud. Her delicate newborn body was fair and enchanting, as flawless as jade. At this time, her long hair danced about her and her entire body was bathed in sparkling starlight, like an immortal goddess. If anyone were to see Xiao Moxian now, they would inevitably feel a sense of shame and inferiority in her presence.

“Lin Ming!”

Xiao Moxian brightly smiled as she looked down and saw Lin Ming. Then, she rushed downwards like a little bunny, her bare body flying into Lin Ming’s arms.

A jade warmth in his arms, the fragrance of a young woman, and also the residual aura of the flames of nirvana – all of this was like a dream, leaving one enchanted.

Xiao Moxian would never have imagined that this round of dual cultivation would have given her so many benefits. She had brought the yin yang energies within to harmony, not only allowing her to break past the Divine Lord bottleneck but also helping her complete her first nirvana.

The earlier a phoenix experienced nirvana, the better. However, even more so for a phoenix with a royal bloodline, it was still extremely rare that they would undergo nirvana at Xiao Moxian’s current boundary.

Xiao Moxian held onto Lin Ming. Without any explanation, she wrapped her arms around his neck and deeply kissed him. Beneath her lips, her tongue played with his for a long time, only then reluctantly separating.

She coyly looked at Lin Ming as she flavored the aftertaste on her tongue. Her kiss with Lin Ming was just like holding hands with him, allowing her to equalize their energies. Of course, this effect

was ten times greater than with just holding hands. It was like not only their energies connected, but their life forces and even their souls, leaving them both enthralled. This was countless times more wonderful than when mortals kissed.

Xiao Moxian didn't seem satisfied with kisses alone. She licked her lips and said, "Lin Ming, I'm in love with this feeling. I want to experience it again and again and again."

As Xiao Moxian spoke she was about to reach down to deliver her fragrant lips onto Lin Ming's once more. But at this time, Primordius Heavenly Palace violently shook as another blood seal came crashing down.

"Tian Mingzi!"

As this blood seal fell down, Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian each struck out, crushing that blood seal to nothing!

After passing through and being weakened by Primordius Heavenly Palace's array formation, Tian Mingzi's blood seal didn't have much strength remaining. It was easily broken apart by Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian at their full strength.

"This drop dead old geezer." Xiao Moxian grit her teeth. She was an extremely vengeful individual. Tian Mingzi had cultivated in Empyrean Demondawn's domain for many years and had even trained in a part of the Heaven Absorbing Demon Art, receiving the graciousness of Demondawn Heavenly Palace. Yet not only did he not return the favor to Demondawn Heavenly Palace, but he even wanted to take Xiao Moxian for his alchemy. How could she not hate him?

"Lin Ming, you try and break into the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace once more. Then, you and I will join forces to strike down this old bastard!" Xiao Moxian spoke up, her words brimming with confidence. This was the confidence that came from strength.

Xiao Moxian had gone through the equivalent of two

breakthroughs just now. The first was breaking into the Divine Lord realm and the second was experiencing a phoenix nirvana. There was no comparing her previous strength with her current state.

“Good, that’s always what I intended to do!” Lin Ming’s eyes burst out with a sharp light. At this time, the foundation of his mortal body had reached an indescribable degree!

Lin Ming’s mortal body contained the incomparably pure phoenix and dragon blood that had begun to fuse together. Not just that, but he also had the strength of the Essence Spirit Embryo Stone and the Grandmist Spirit Bead essence. With all of this gathered together with the accumulations Lin Ming gained during the years, his mortal body had reached a truly heaven-defying realm!

What was defying the heavens? That was to break through the Heavenly Dao rules and to defy the will of the heavens!

Lin Ming let go of Xiao Moxian. He took a deep breath as he released the Eight Inner Hidden Gates to their limits.

Ka ka ka ka!

His joints released explosive crackling sounds. This sort of sound shook the body, even causing one’s eardrums to tremble. Atop Lin Ming’s head, the light of the nine stars suddenly shined brightly yet again. He wanted to attack the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace once more!

The Nine Stars of the Dao Palace had held Lin Ming down for far, far too long. Even if he were to attack this boundary now, he would still encounter numerous difficulties, each one harder than the last.

But now, the moment Lin Ming had been waiting for had finally arrived. With his absolute strength he would break through these shackles!

Weng - !

Energy trembled in the skies. The lines of the Great Dao reappeared. Above Lin Ming, the nine star dao diagram reformed!

The dao diagram wove together, forming a massive net that pressed down towards Lin Ming!

Lin Ming was already prepared. He roared out loud, all the strength within his body erupting like a volcano!

One billion jins, two billion jins, three billion jins... and still rising!

Only when his strength neared four billion jins did it slow. At this time, Lin Ming's fists could break down mountains and rivers and tear through space!

“Celestial Tyrant Manual – Hundred Layered Waves!”

A strength of four billion jins, when used by the Hundred Layered Waves technique, was magnified multiple times. Lin Ming's strength rose once more, surpassing the critical point of 10 billion jins!

In ancient times, strength of 10 billion jins had a specific title – that was, the strength of a dragon!

This wasn't implying that the mortal bodily strength of a True Dragon was only 10 billion jins. Rather, it was a description of a martial artist's bodily strength. Once their strength broke past 10 billion jins, it would experience a qualitative change!

Kacha!

Lin Ming's fist smashed into the nine star dao diagram!

The nine star dao diagram violently shook, seeming as if it would disintegrate at any moment!

An alarming crack ripped through the nine star dao diagram; the Heavenly Dao Laws were about to be torn down by Lin Ming!

After a great chunk of the dao diagram was torn apart, faint strands of starlight fell through the dao diagram and shined onto Lin Ming. This starlight gathered into Lin Ming's body, circulating through his limbs and bones. In an instant, Lin Ming felt his flesh and blood become far more powerful and far more solid.

This starlight gathered somewhere in his body, seeming as if it would form its own Dao Palace!

Once the Dao Palace formed, this would be the true Nine Stars of the Dao Palace!

"I've only absorbed a little bit of starlight and yet my body has obtained so many advantages. If I can truly follow what the ancient texts say and refine a star into my body, then what boundary will the intensity of my body reach? If I can refine all nine stars into my body and form my own dao diagram in the skies, then even an Empyrean won't be my match!"

In that moment, a heroic feeling surged in Lin Ming's heart. His road of martial arts was without end; it was impossible to say where the limit lay! Extreme Empyrean, True Divinity, neither of these were Lin Ming's end goal because he wanted to surpass all of this!

Ka ka ka ka!

Lin Ming gripped his fists, his joints exploding. With a roar, he punched out a second time.

Bang!

The gap in the dao diagram tore even wider. More and more starlight flowed out.

Lin Ming greedily absorbed this starlight, feeling his mortal body strengthen. He punched out again and again, his fists crashing into the dao diagram until they were stained with blood and his arms were numb!

The nine star dao diagram represented the rules of the Heavenly

Dao, beyond reproach. Even if Lin Ming were to barrage the dao diagram with the strength of a dragon he still wouldn't be able to safely break it open.

Whenever the energy within his body became chaotic and his blood began to tumble about, within Lin Ming's inner world, the harmonized dragon and phoenix energy would turn into a dragon and phoenix phantom that raced through his body. Then, Lin Ming's aura would immediately become much smoother.

"I've already torn open 90%, I'm almost there!"

Lin Ming's eyes flashed with a severe light. The more he attacked, the fiercer his attacks became. Although there was only 10% of the dao diagram remaining, this last 10% was the most solid and most difficult to break apart. In order to do so he would need to consume a massive amount of energy and blood vitality.

And at this time, outside of Primordius Heavenly Palace, Tian Mingzi saw that the nine stars hanging above him, which had just dimmed down, had suddenly become several times brighter than they were at the start!

In particular, the star known as Army Breaker was releasing a light as luminescent as a full moon, causing one's will to tremble!

"How could this be? How is this possible!?"

Tian Mingzi was dumbfounded. He had clearly driven Lin Ming to the edge of despair. In order to do this, he had not hesitated to consume his life force, consume his blood essence, and risk permanently damaging his future cultivation forever.

He felt that he had already used all possible methods to their limit. And in truth, everything he did seemed to have succeeded. The starlight of the nine stars had dimmed down and they seemed as if they would vanish at any moment. No one would ever expect that they would suddenly brighten up by thousands of times.

"Damn it all!"

Tian Mingzi didn't believe in superstitions. He clenched his teeth, taking out more pills from his spatial ring and swallowing them down!

His face flushed as red as blood. His hands flickered as numerous blood seals were formed by him.

These blood seals were all intended to stir one's heart demons. Tian Mingzi's eyes flashed with a grim light as he sent these blood seals all smashing into Primordius Heavenly Palace!

This was a move that consumed Tian Mingzi's blood vitality in order to cast. The foundation of a Great World King's body was far too terrifying. If an ordinary World King were to attempt such a move in this state, they might have withered away to dust.

At this time, within Primordius Heavenly Palace, Lin Ming only sneered as he saw all of these blood seals fly towards him. If there wasn't the protection of Primordius Heavenly Palace and Tian Mingzi was directly attacking Lin Ming, then Lin Ming absolutely would not have been able to withstand this attack. But within Primordius Heavenly Palace, everything Tian Mingzi did was merely wasting his own strength.

“Body Tearing Bone Shattering Fist!”

With his strength of four million jins, Lin Ming struck out with the Body Tearing Bone Shattering Fist. This was strength training's 'flow like silk' that was recorded in the Chaotic Virtues Combat Meridians. In the past, the Chaotic Virtues Combat Meridians stated that those who practiced flow like silk to the highest boundary could turn their own energy into a trillion strands and turn anything they punched into dust!

And now, Lin Ming had clearly surpassed this boundary!

His fists smashed into the blood seals. After being severely weakened by Primordius Heavenly Palace's array formation, these blood seals simply exploded into the tiniest motes of energy.

Lin Ming punched out again and again, smashing all these blood seals apart. Then, he grit his teeth and erupted his bodily strength to the limit. The Gate of Life's blood essence burned and the power of dragons and phoenixes erupted. He shot into the skies, firing right into the nine star dao diagram!

“Break, Nine Stars of the Dao Palace!”

At this time, Lin Ming was no different from a blazing meteor. He poured his complete strength into this one strike and even used the Gate of Life to burn 20% of his blood essence. This could be described as an all-out attack!

Kacha!

Lin Ming's fist crashed into the final flaw of the nine star dao diagram!

In that moment, the nine star dao diagram finally shattered! Nine stars, seven bright and two dark, appeared in front of Lin Ming!

A powerful impact rushed through Lin Ming's blood but he didn't care about this at all. As long as he could break through to the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace and baptize himself underneath the powerful starlight, everything would recover. Moreover, his mortal body would reach its peak condition.

He spotted the direction of the Army Breaker Star and hurtled towards it!

Chapter 1535 – Refining A Star

The stars manifested within the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace were in fact not true stars.

True light-emitting stars were massive fireballs like the sun in the sky; their volume was unimaginable. Even an Empyrean or True Divinity would find it impossible to refine such a large object. When a martial artist said they had the ability to move a celestial star, they usually meant that they could move a planet that wasn't too big. To move something as large as a blaze star was simply impossible.

The stars in the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace were formed by the Nine Stars Heavenly Dao of the 33 Heavenly Dao Laws. Each human that cultivated the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace had nine stars that corresponded to them in space. But after the events of the great calamity 3.6 billion years ago, up until now, only Empyrean Primordius had been able to fully step into the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace. Now, Lin Ming was the second!

As Lin Ming approached the Army Breaker Star, he discovered that this blazing white sphere of light was only a foot in diameter, and in the center of this sphere was a fist-sized core; this was the essence of the Army Breaker Star.

The star in front of him was pure strength condensed from the rules of the heavens and earth. What Lin Ming had to do now was to refine this star into his own flesh and blood.

In that moment, Lin Ming opened the Eight Inner Hidden Gates to the limit. Astral essence surged out from his body and with his 4 billion jins of strength he reached out his arm, directly grasping onto the Army Breaker Star!

Chi-la!

As Lin Ming's hand entered the blazing white sphere of light, he

felt a terrifying pressure and burning heat, as if this sphere of light wanted to tear apart his hand. The closer he reached to the core of this white sphere, the more intense the heat and pressure became. Lin Ming could even feel that his body was about to explode to pieces.

“With starlight as my sail and a dao diagram as my ship, I shall sail the vast universe, my strength rising to another heaven!”

Lin Ming roared out loud and grabbed onto the core of this star!

In that moment, Lin Ming felt as if his hand was immersed in a pool of strong acid, his flesh and blood being melted away. If it were a martial artist with a weaker body then their hand would have been instantly melted away to bones.

Lin Ming revolved the Celestial Tyrant Manual and sucked out the strength of the star core. The Celestial Tyrant Manual was a cultivation method jade slip that the old Holy Lord of the Verdant Feather Holy Lands had found together with the Magic Cube when he explored an ancient ruin. The only problem was that it was incomplete, so it was hard to say just what grade of cultivation method it had been. But in the current Divine Realm, the Celestial Tyrant Manual was undoubtedly a peak body transformation cultivation method, because all body transformation techniques related to humanity’s Nine Stars of the Dao Palace had long been lost to time.

After being held by Lin Ming, this star core flushed right and left as if it wanted to struggle free from his grip. Lin Ming was startled. It was like this star core formed from the Heavenly Dao rules had a mind of its own; it was incomparably mysterious.

“What a wondrous road of martial arts. The Eight Inner Hidden Gates and Nine Stars of the Dao Palace are both body transformation Laws of the human race and also one of the Laws of the 33 Heavens; just why would they change?”

Lin Ming was puzzled. To change the rules like this was to take

one of the 33 Heavenly Dao Laws and reverse it.

Such a splendid road of martial arts had been severed just like that; it was truly regretful!

Then, Lin Ming placed that star core in his mouth and swallowed it down!

For a time, Lin Ming felt an indescribable heat flow down his body and sink into his inner world.

Infinite starlight burst out within Lin Ming's body and a massive amount of starlight surged out from him, making his entire body shine with a beautiful crystalline transparency. In this baptism of starlight, Lin Ming could feel the astral energy within him being fired up and tempered, purified repeatedly as it was refined again and again.

The starlight of the highest heavens became increasingly dazzling, shining like flowing mercury as it spread throughout Lin Ming's limbs and bones and then converged into his inner world. This sort of scene represented the majesty and wonders of the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace!

It was unknown how long this process continued. Sometimes Lin Ming would feel severe pain wrack his body and sometimes he would feel extreme pleasure. Although the process of refining this star wasn't easy, he didn't experience any life or death dangers. This was mainly due to Lin Ming's bodily foundation being far too solid. If his mortal bodily intensity were to be placed amongst martial artists that had just entered the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace 3.6 billion years ago then he would be far, far stronger!

To use such a body to refine a star, even if that star was far more formidable due to the change in the Heavenly Dao rules, this sort of matter still wouldn't be anything to the current Lin Ming.

In the sky, the eight other stars had already vanished. All of Lin Ming's pores opened as they overflowed with starlight.

When Lin Ming trained in body transformation before, he took all sorts of divine pills and medicines to aid in his breakthrough and often had to experience the process of having his body transformed and reborn, reforming his marrow, expelling the impurities and even draining out his old blood until the new mercury-thick blood filled his veins.

But now, long before Lin Ming had broken into the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace, he had trained to the point that there wasn't the tiniest amount of impurities left in his body. His blood and his recently combined Azure Dragon blood and phoenix blood essence couldn't be changed again.

Without reaching this degree, it was impossible to break into the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace.

When a martial artist broke through the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace in this state, it was no longer possible for them to replace their blood and bone marrow.

The true Nine Stars of the Dao Palace was to use the starlight of the highest heavens to baptize the spirit body, inscribing the power of the Laws into the flawless mortal body!

Strength training, flesh training, viscera training, altering muscle, bone forging, tempering marrow; these six stages of early body transformation could be called laying down and strengthening the foundation of a martial artist's body.

The Gate of Healing, Gate of Life, Gate of Pain, Gate of Limit, Gate of View, Gate of Wonder, Gate of Death, Gate of Opening; these Eight Inner Hidden Gates could be called digging out the very depths of a martial artist's life potential.

Then, the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace were inscribing the very Laws themselves into a martial artist's body, allowing a human body transformation martial artist to utilize the strength of the 33 Heavenly Dao Laws!

The 3000 roads of the Great Dao, no matter where they started, all headed towards the same destination. If one walked down the road of martial arts it was impossible to bypass the Laws of the 33 Layered Heaves, because they were the foundation upon which the universes of the 33 Heavens were formed!

As time passed, the crystal nucleus of the Army Breaker Star completely decomposed in Lin Ming's inner world, turning into shimmering starlight that formed a revolving dao diagram.

Then, starlight began to gather upon this dao diagram, using it as the foundation to build a palace!

This palace was square, with sharp corners, giving off a solemn and dignified atmosphere. At the same time, it glittered crystal clear, as if it were carved from the most luxurious jade.

This was Lin Ming's Dao Palace. The moment that this Dao Palace finished building, it meant Lin Ming had truly broken into the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace!

Lin Ming's consciousness took human shape. He entered his own inner world and stepped into the palace.

In the next moment, his surroundings suddenly changed. He arrived in a new world, a vast and boundless land. But no matter where he looked he could see a heavy fog, as if everything here was waiting for Lin Ming to develop.

Although the Dao Palace had formed, it was still empty inside. The array diagram was not yet complete. This also meant that Lin Ming was only at the very beginning stages of the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace.

"A Dao Palace in my inner word, this is the Purple Temple Dao Palace!"

Lin Ming's eyes sparkled. The Purple Temple Dao Palace was one of the nine great Dao Palaces of the human body!

The function of this Dao Palace was to condense the power of the

stars from the highest heavens. In a short period of time, it would allow the intensity of Lin Ming's astral essence to rise by a dramatic degree! This sort of increase could be by three to four times, or even eight to nine times!

The exact number was determined by the foundation of the martial artist as well as the completeness of their Dao Palace.

This was because the origin of the Purple Temple Dao Palace's strength didn't come from a martial artist's body but from starlight in the highest heavens. Thus, even if it increased strength by several times it still wouldn't overdraw a martial artist's potential; this was the advantage of the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace!

In comparison, the Gate of Life's blood essence was to burn a martial artist's blood vitality. If one burned too much it would damage a martial artist's life source and would reach unrecoverable levels. From this alone, the difference between the two could be seen.

As the Purple Temple Dao Palace completely opened, Lin Ming's clothes began to flutter about him. A massive amount of starlight formed a vortex within his body. As the Dao Palace became established, it began to crazily grow!

From several billion jins, it grew without end. With irresistible momentum, it broke through the strength of a dragon and continued growing!

The opening of the Purple Temple Dao Palace not only meant Lin Ming gaining another ability, but in terms of his body alone, he experienced a massive leap forwards!

Lin Ming floated high in the nine star heavens, his eyes closed as he silently felt the transformations occurring in his body.

"Nine Stars of the Dao Palace... this is Nine Stars of the Dao Palace!"

As Lin Ming raised his hand, he could feel the astral essence within his body surging all about him, his supernatural powers billowing like a tide. As the starlight fully entered his body, his bodily strength had already reached more than 15 billion jins!

Without relying on the Celestial Tyrant Manual to superimpose his strength, just his base strength alone had surpassed the strength of a dragon! And if he were to use the Celestial Tyrant Manual again after this and gather the strength of the nine heaven stars into his body, then Lin Ming's explosive force would reach an incomprehensible degree!

“The Nine Stars of the Dao Palace, I've finally broken through... Tian Mingzi... I've made you wait for a long time...”

In that instant, Lin Ming's eyes flashed open. In his vision, a deep killing intent flashed!

Chapter 1536 – Facing a Great World King

As Lin Ming's consciousness withdrew from the star space, Xiao Moxian was the first to welcome him back.

“Lin Ming, I knew you would succeed!”

At this time, Xiao Moxian had already used energy to form a long black dress. After experiencing her phoenix nirvana her body exuded a strange and enthralling appeal. It was no longer just the simple pureness of a young girl but contained many flavors of grace and charm.

After Lin Ming broke through the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace and obtained Xiao Moxian's primordial yin blood and baptism of her phoenix nirvana, the yin yang energy within him had also become balanced and the rise in his strength was not a small matter.

As for Xiao Moxian, she had broken through to the Divine Lord realm and experienced her first phoenix nirvana; her strength had risen even more than Lin Ming's!

After several hours of cultivation, Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian had both been reborn. There was no comparison between the past and current them!

The two of them both contained a dreadful supernatural power within them, one that wanted to break free!

“Xian'er, let's go!”

Because of the substantial change in their relationship, the way Lin Ming called Xiao Moxian also changed. Xiao Moxian held onto Lin Ming's hand and followed him out.

She was well aware that outside of Primordius Heavenly Palace, there was a Great World King waiting for them!

However, this didn't cause her to feel fear. Rather, it ignited a

blazing fighting spirit in her heart.

The Divine Lord realm to challenge a Great World King!

Looking at the broad world, since ancient and modern times, just who had this sort of daring boldness!?

At this time, outside of Primordius Heavenly Palace, Tian Mingzi was looking at the skies with suspicions. The nine stars had long since vanished.

Just two hours ago, the extremely dim nine stars had become incomparably bright. Among them, the Army Breaker Star was especially brilliant, like the luminescent moon shining on a clear night.

Because of that, Tian Mingzi's thoughts had become chaotic and he had spared no expense to use an arcane skill, even using his blood essence to form heart demon seals again and again. But due to the array formation protecting Primordius Heavenly Palace, he had no idea whether or not his attacks had been effective. Afterwards, those nine stars had brightened for a long time before slowly dimming down and then vanishing completely.

This scene caused the overly cautious Tian Mingzi to frown. He had no idea just what had happened.

It had been countless years since anyone had broken through the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace and even any ancient texts that described the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace had been lost to time. Tian Mingzi had no idea what sort of phenomena would occur when a martial artist tried to break through the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace.

After seeing the nine stars disappear, Tian Mingzi believed that Lin Ming should have failed in his breakthrough.

“This brat is really the reincarnation of a demon god. Even the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace that were cursed by the Heavenly Dao have produced such a phenomenon because of him, it was like he

had nearly made his breakthrough! Luckily, my heart demon seals are especially used to stir martial artists' heart demons when they are attempting a breakthrough... otherwise, that brat really might have been successful in his breakthrough!"

Tian Mingzi calculated in his mind. He felt that this speculation was the most reasonable.

Perhaps, because of the heart demon seals and the energy backlash from failing to break through the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace, Lin Ming's mortal body might have already collapsed and he may have been in a dying state.

Looking at Primordius Heavenly Palace, this inestimably valuable palace was still covered with a powerful array formation. It would be impossible to shatter its defenses in a short period of time.

Tian Mingzi diabolically grinned. "Such a wonderful treasure and yet you cannot drive it with your own power. You can only rely on using nine sun jades to supply the required energy to power the array formations, that is truly a waste! Then, let me help you receive this treasure! Moreover, all the secrets on your body will also be mine! I will allow you to maintain whatever feeble existence you still have for several more days while I restore myself to my peak state, and then I'll slowly refine this Primordius Heavenly Palace once more. After that, I'll pull out your soul and refine it, hahaha!"

As Tian Mingzi imagined himself using a soul searching technique to discover all of Lin Ming's secrets, he became increasingly happy with himself.

In trying to kill Lin Ming for these last 20 years, the price he had paid was immeasurable. Not only had he severed his hand but he had even lost the Skydark Holy Lands that he had ruled for 50,000 years. Now, he had even been forced to burn 30% of his blood essence, greatly damaging himself in the process!

"My lost blood vitality can be restored using Xiao Moxian. She

has a half phoenix body and she also comes from the royal phoenix bloodline! If I use her to make a pill, not only can I fully recover my blood vitality but I'll even surpass my peak state in the past! For me to encounter Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian in the Asura Road is my life's greatest lucky chance!"

If he was successful in killing Lin Ming, this would indeed be the most important moment in Tian Mingzi's life. He would inherit everything of Lin Ming's; even becoming an extreme Emperian in the future would be easy. Thus, even though Tian Mingzi was a naturally cold-minded and sinister individual who hid his thoughts deeply, at this time he couldn't restrain his mood from wildly oscillating!

"I'll sit in meditation, and three days later when I've restored my strength I will have a 90% chance of refining this Heavenly Palace!"

Although Tian Mingzi desperately wanted to kill Lin Ming right now, he didn't immediately try to break through Primordius Heavenly Palace's array formation. Rather, he decided to wait until he restored himself to his top condition before killing Lin Ming. This was to ensure that his plan was successful and prevent Lin Ming from counterattacking him in any manner.

Then, Tian Mingzi casually set up an array formation around Primordius Heavenly Palace. To Tian Mingzi, Lin Ming was a turtle in a jar; there was no escape for him.

As Primordius Heavenly Palace was surrounded, Tian Mingzi grinned. But then, his smile froze on his face. He stared blankly on as the array formation surrounding Primordius Heavenly Palace was torn apart and a youth in black clothes stepped out, following by a young woman in a dress. These two people that just stepped out from the array formation were Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian!

"What!?"

Tian Mingzi couldn't even believe his eyes. He had been thinking

of all possible means by which he could refine Primordius Heavenly Palace and yet Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian emerged on their own volition!?

Could they have realized that staying in there was the same as waiting for death, so they planned to rush out now and risk their lives battling him while he was at his weakest?

“A wise decision, but still useless!”

Even though Tian Mingzi was near exhaustion and he was covered with countless wounds, he was still a Great World King. He was an existence who could destroy a planet with his hand, so how could he be killed by a mere Divine Lord powerhouse?

As for Lin Ming's avatar, Tian Mingzi didn't fear it anymore. He had only been surprised by the avatar's sneak attack before, but now he was prepared. He could absolutely use an array formation to imprison the avatar and then slowly refine it. No matter how powerful that avatar's bodily defensive abilities were, it was impossible for it alone to change the tide of this war.

“Lin Ming, Xiao Moxian, are you really that impatient to die? Haha, that is just what I like!” Tian Mingzi laughed. Although he was arrogant on the surface, the truth was that he was maintaining vigilance all around him in order to prevent Lin Ming from using any more of his dirty tricks. However, no matter how guarded he was, he still felt his heart shake as he saw Xiao Moxian's cultivation!

Xiao Moxian had also broken through to the Divine Lord realm!

Just what was happening?

Tian Mingzi felt this to be unbelievable. He was well aware that just some time ago, Xiao Moxian had only been at the late Divine Transformation realm. After entering God Burying Ridge and Tragic Death Valley, why would her cultivation base suddenly rise to the Divine Lord realm in such a short period of time? Even if she

were to ignore all consequences to her foundation and swallow any heavenly materials she could find, it would still be impossible for her cultivation to rise so quickly!

“Divine Lord realm, you also broke through the Divine Lord realm! Good! Very good! But you still cannot change your fate of destruction. The only thing that will change is that when I use you for alchemy, I will be able to press out more of your phoenix blood essence to restore more of my lost blood vitality!”

Tian Mingzi looked at Xiao Moxian and cackled.

Although he could see Xiao Moxian’s breakthrough, he actually couldn’t see Lin Ming’s. Tian Mingzi didn’t understand the boundary of the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace to begin with, so he only thought that Lin Ming was still at the peak of the Eight Inner Hidden Gates.

However, he could faintly feel that Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian were much stronger than they were before. This caused him to be on full alert. He was only worried that Lin Ming would have some tricks up his sleeve, not that Lin Ming would be stronger than he was.

“Tian Mingzi, aren’t you afraid that the wind will bite your blathering tongue? Hehe, just you wait, I’ll cut you up to feed to the dogs!”

Xiao Moxian stood in sharp opposition, not backing down in the least. This caused Tian Mingzi to scowl.

“You really have no idea of death or danger!”

Tian Mingzi flicked his hand and a pill flew into his mouth. With it, an abnormal red color brightened his cheeks. His missing blood vitality seemed to become exuberant once more.

Without a doubt, this was a pill with a side effect. Eating too much of this would have a tremendous impact on his future.

Lin Ming sneered as he saw this, “Your body is already so ruined

that you need medicines to fight? Your arm seems to have been severed too and the meridians haven't even fully healed. How pitiful... but, no matter how miserable you are I won't show any mercy at all. I will kill you now in your weakest moment!"

As Lin Ming spoke to here, astral essence surged out from his body. An unimaginable great strength erupted from him like a tide!

Tian Mingzi's pupils shrank. His complexion became increasingly fierce and wild. "So your strength has made some progress, no wonder you're so arrogant. But, if you think that this alone is enough to defeat me then you are far too naïve! Let me show you what the strength of a Great World King is like! Today, I will make up for all the blood vitality I lost from your body!"

Tian Mingzi drew the black sword from his spatial ring and stepped on the void, slashing out at Lin Ming. As this sword came slicing down, countless demons seemed to gush out from the blade. At the same time, this sword also carried with it a terrifying suction power. This was Tian Mingzi's Heaven Absorbing Demon Art that he used in conjunction with his attack!

Seeing Tian Mingzi's sword cut down, Lin Ming didn't evade or dodge. He locked onto Tian Mingzi's sword light and punched out!

In that instant, Lin Ming's great strength of 15 billion jins erupted, strength that surpassed that of a dragon!

Kacha!

With a loud crack, Tian Mingzi's sword light disintegrated into countless motes of black light. As for Lin Ming, his body only shook but he stood firm where he was without retreating a single step.

"What!?"

Tian Mingzi's was bewildered. Because he was cautious that Lin Ming would play some trick on him, that had only been a probing

attack just now. Even though he hadn't gone all-out, it was still a terrifying strike. Despite this, he never imagined that Lin Ming would block it bare-handed with such ease.

Chapter 1537 – Fighting Tian Mingzi

Tian Mingzi's complexion changed as he saw that Lin Ming's strength had greatly increased. Although he had overdrawn his blood vitality and his boundary had dropped, a skinny camel was still larger than a horse. This sword strike of his was able to instantly kill a peak Holy Lord, but Lin Ming with his early Divine Lord realm cultivation had been able to easily block it!

Although Tian Mingzi had only used 30% of his strength there, didn't Lin Ming also not use his complete strength?

"You..." Tian Mingzi's lips shook as he spoke. An inconceivable possibility appeared in his mind, but only this possibility could reasonably explain what just happened!

"You... you broke through the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace!?"

As Tian Mingzi looked at Lin Ming now, his eyes were filled with fear and dread!

Lin Ming was far too fearful, fearful to the point that it suffocated him!

Originally, Tian Mingzi with his Great World King cultivation had joined forces with an ordinary World King, two half-step World Kings, some guides and underlings, and later even a half-step Empyrean. This amazingly mighty lineup of martial artists had been used to hunt down a late Divine Transformation realm martial artist through the God Burying Ridge. That could simply be called the most ludicrous joke in the world. If news of this were to ever spread out then they would all be laughed at as idiots who tried to kill a chicken with an oxen knife.

Not even hunting down a strong World King would require such a luxurious lineup!

However, this amazing lineup of individuals, in hunting down a single junior, had met an unexpected result!

First, they had forced Lin Ming into Tragic Death Valley, a land that no one had ever emerged from for 10 billion years. However, not only did Lin Ming leave unscathed but he had also obtained massive benefits, benefits that allowed him to break into the Divine Lord realm!

Even a Divine Lord realm martial artist still wasn't worthy to be chased by such a strong group. Once they found him they could instantly crush him to death!

But following that, Lin Ming had lured them all into a danger zone, using all sorts of traps and methods in addition to his own terrifying combat strength to kill them all off one at a time!

If Ash Murder, Mister Zhou, and all the others who came before had made the grave mistake of underestimating their opponent, then Tian Mingzi could be said to have treated him with the utmost sincerity, stopping at nothing to ensure victory. He hadn't even hesitated to use up his own blood essence and even then he had only caused Lin Ming to receive heavy wounds and be forced back into Primordius Heavenly Palace. Afterwards, he had even used his heart demon blood curse so that Lin Ming's heart demons would burst out during his breakthrough and he would perish.

But, the reality was that Lin Ming had closed up in Primordius Heavenly Palace and had broken through to the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace, allowing his strength to reach unprecedented heights!

This Lin Ming had been set in death trap after death trap but had found the path to survival, making it so that no one could summon the courage to face him!

Even if Tian Mingzi were a Great World King, he was also the same.

However, now that matters had come to this step it was impossible for him to retreat. He had severely damaged his life source and if he didn't kill Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian now then it was likely he would fall to the boundary of an ordinary World King

in the future. Not just that, but his lifespan would be damaged and it would be nearly impossible to progress a single inch forwards in his future cultivation. To Tian Mingzi, this was a fate worse than death!

Now, in this sealed off space, it was either he would perish or they would die!

“Good! Very good!” Tian Mingzi’s eyes were dignified. Although his words seemed confident, he lacked any assurance in his heart. If he were in his peak state then no matter what breakthroughs Lin Ming made he could still easily suppress him. But now, he had lost all grasp of the situation because he simply didn’t know how strong a martial artist would become after reaching the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace!

There was simply no reference target for this. This was because the saints didn’t cultivate the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace; their race had a body transformation technique that was easier and suited them more. Thus, it could be said that within the current universes of the 33 Layered Heavens, only Lin Ming had reached the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace. His achievements could not be replicated!

Facing this enemy that he didn’t understand at all, Tian Mingzi could only try his best!

Tian Mingzi spread out his arms. Behind him, the phantom of a demon god formed. All of the surrounding heaven and earth origin energy gathered towards this demon god!

A Great World King was still a Great World King. Even after being reduced to such a state he could still display such a powerful technique.

Tian Mingzi shot out the black sword in his hands. This sword seemed to turn into a black snake, winding through the air before falling into the hands of this demon god phantom.

Tian Mingzi had given his sword to the demon god phantom!

Seeing this, Lin Ming was startled. He could faintly feel that Tian Mingzi's sword was extremely unusual. Its shape was strange, with the blade being longer than an adult male was high, and yet the blade was as narrow as a flower petal. It was difficult to apply any sort of force with this sword and thus difficult to understand why any refining master would design a sword like this.

But seeing this demon god phantom gradually take shape in the air, Lin Ming was able to speculate that this demon god phantom wasn't summoned by Tian Mingzi, but had always been sealed within the sword!

Then, Tian Mingzi struck his chest with his fist and spat out a mouthful of blood into the demon god phantom. As this demon god phantom absorbed Tian Mingzi's blood, it became increasingly real and its expression became increasingly fierce!

Witnessing this scene, Lin Ming felt his heart skip a beat. Tian Mingzi had actually used his own blood to raise this demon! In the legends, there were witches and shamans that raised poisonous bugs in their body, feeding them with their own flesh and blood. This demon that Tian Mingzi released was in a similar situation.

“Hahaha! Lin Ming! This demon slave that I carefully raised is for when my true self has been severely wounded! It can display 50% of my peak strength! You can die now!”

Tian Mingzi raved. Then, the demon god phantom hurtled forwards, billowing demonic energy that surged all about it, condensing into ash gray pythons that twisted above the sword before cutting straight down!

“A demon slave with 50% of your combat strength?”

Hearing Tian Mingzi's wild laughter, Xiao Moxian was shocked. A Great World King truly did have endless methods to use; she never imagined Tian Mingzi would have such a backup plan. Just

from looking at the billowing demon energy of that demon god phantom, she could see just how strong it was!

A demon slave with 50% of Tian Mingzi's peak combat strength? How could she and Lin Ming block it?

And as Xiao Moxian's mind wavered, the demon slave roared out loud and rushed towards Lin Ming. A terrifying demon will turned into a beam of dark light that shot into Xiao Moxian's spiritual sea. This was the heart demon seal that Tian Mingzi had used before!

Without being weakened by Primordius Heavenly Palace's array formation, this heart demon blood seal was over ten times more powerful than before!

“Be careful!”

Just as this heart demon was about to enter Xiao Moxian's mind, Lin Ming's voice cracked in her ear like a shocking thunderclap!

In his voice, he had fused the Divine Mist Heart Mantra, using the Laws of the soul forging system to block the heart demon blood seal that was trying to drill into Xiao Moxian!

“Myriad Demon Karmic Wheel!”

Lin Ming's spear swept out and drew a dao diagram in the air. This dao diagram had countless demons sealed within it, all of them fierce and dreadful!

Rumble rumble rumble!

The dao diagram revolved, suppressing and smashing apart the heart demon blood seal like a massive grinding pan!

Xiao Moxian's mind shook. Only then did she free herself from the shackles of the heart demon.

She was startled by what had just happened; she had almost fallen into Tian Mingzi's trap.

“He's lying to you!” Lin Ming quickly said to Xiao Moxian with a true essence sound transmission.

Xiao Moxian eyebrows shot up. She immediately understood what Lin Ming was saying!

Perhaps Tian Mingzi might have really raised a demon slave so he could bring it out whenever his true self was injured. But, the strength of this demon slave wasn't as formidable as Tian Mingzi had described.

The reason for this was that Tian Mingzi had to face the iron-armored spectral soldier array and had repeatedly burnt his blood essence to defeat them. If this demon slave really did possess 50% of his peak strength then why would he need to burn his blood essence now?

In other words, Tian Mingzi had already used this demon slave to deal with the iron-armored spectral soldier array, causing the origin energy of the demon slave to be severely damaged and its strength to have lowered.

But no matter what the truth was, Tian Mingzi was simply making empty claims about this demon slave.

And there was only one reason he did this. He wanted to produce a brief moment where Xiao Moxian's mind wavered so he could use a heart demon blood seal to invade her spiritual sea and stoke her heart demons!

"Guard your mind. This Tian Mingzi wants to deal with you first so he can suck up your phoenix blood essence to recover his own strength and then deal with me!"

Lin Ming quickly said. Xiao Moxian grimaced. This Tian Mingzi was far too sinister!

But, one couldn't blame Xiao Moxian for being too careful in thinking this. Tian Mingzi's acting was far too real, and in addition to his Great World King boundary, it was easy to believe that he had some ultimate hidden card in his hands.

Bang!

At this moment, the Myriad Demon Karmic Wheel released an explosive sound. After it crushed the demon heart blood seal to dust, it began grinding down on the demon slave!

Lin Ming stepped on space. As he raised his hands, tremendous supernatural powers rushed forwards with overwhelming momentum!

He grasped the Phoenix Blood Spear and pointed it straight between the demon slave's eyebrows. "All demons in this world, be received into the Myriad Demon Karmic Wheel, never to enter samsara, forever and ever imprisoned to be used by me!"

"Uwooo!"

The Myriad Demon Karmic Wheel flew forwards like a horrifying spinning saw wheel. The demon slave released heart-rending screams as the Myriad Demon Karmic Wheel tore into its body!

Xiao Moxian's thoughts were right. This demon slave, in its peak state, might have had 40-50% of Tian Mingzi's strength. However, because Tian Mingzi needed to break through the iron-armored spectral soldier array as soon as possible so he could hinder Lin Ming's breakthrough, he had summoned the demon slave, greatly consuming its energy. Now, it was far inferior to how it was in the past!

Xiao Moxian watched as the demon slave was cut apart. Lin Ming's words were like the proclamation of heaven, seeming as if he were ordering the slave demon to be sucked into the Myriad Demon Karmic Wheel. She couldn't help but feel admiration at Lin Ming's combat strength.

Xiao Moxian had broken into the Divine Lord realm and had completed her first phoenix nirvana; currently, her strength wasn't too far off from Lin Ming's. But, in terms of true combat experience, the Xiao Moxian who grew up in Demondawn Heavenly Palace was far inferior to the likes of Lin Ming and Tian Mingzi, who wandered the world in search of adventures,

experiencing countless dangerous life or death situations. Even if their strength was similar, the combat strength that Xiao Moxian could display on the battlefield was far inferior to Lin Ming's.

As she admired Lin Ming, Xiao Moxian also felt an indescribable affection towards him. Even though she was a proud daughter of heaven who possessed a nearly unrivalled talent and had even completed her first nirvana during the Divine Lord realm, or even if she were to become a True Divinity in the future, when she was with Lin Ming she knew that he would always stand in front of her, forever protecting her and giving her an inexplicable sense of safety.

Chapter 1538 – Hatred of 50,000 Years

Hum hum hum ~

The Myriad Demon Karmic Wheel viciously spun, soon about to cut through Tian Mingzi's demon slave!

This demon slave had been carefully raised by Tian Mingzi; it was equal to a contract beast in energy form. Once it was exterminated by Lin Ming, Tian Mingzi would suffer enormous losses!

“Demon slave, wind the primordial spirit!!”

Tian Mingzi roared out loud. In that moment, the demon slave phantom that was suppressed by the Myriad Demon Karmic Wheel emitted a shrill scream. Ignoring the Myriad Demon Karmic Wheel that was cutting through its body, it hurtled towards Lin Ming!

Ca!

With a loud cracking sound, the demon slave was split in half by the Myriad Demon Karmic Wheel!

The split up halves of the demon slave began to burn, turning into pure streams of gray energy that wound towards Lin Ming!

This was the demon slave's final desperate attack! After this strike, the demon slave would extinguish into smoke, no longer existing in this world. Tian Mingzi was planning to use this demon slave to suicide into Lin Ming, having both of them die together!

An ordinary contract beast would not be under the absolute control of their master; they wouldn't sacrifice themselves simply because they were commanded to. But, Tian Mingzi's demon slave was completely raised by him and was under his full domination. If it was ordered to risk its life in an attack then it would truly be reckless!

At the peak of its strength, this demon slave had 40-50% of Tian

Mingzi's full strength. Even though this demon slave was nothing but a dried up lamp, the strength that it could erupt with at its final moment was still terrifying. On the spot, it turned into a giant net that came bounding towards Lin Ming!

Ca! Ca! Ca!

The surrounding 100 feet of space was completely sealed off. Lin Ming's complexion changed. This Tian Mingzi was too ruthless; he had sacrificed this contract beast that he raised for so many years and had forced it to burn away all its life essence.

In that moment, Lin Ming felt his heart shake. Just as he was being covered by the demon slave net, illusions grew thick in his mind!

Lin Ming saw illusions of terrifying scenes. First he had been captured by Tian Mingzi, his cultivation completely crippled and his soul sucked out to be refined. Then, Xiao Moxian was raped by him, and Lin Ming could only watch helplessly on as she was refined into a pill! Next, Lin Ming's primordial spirit was imprisoned by Tian Mingzi for a million years, forced to undergo endless torture and pain before disintegrating to ash!

These innumerable illusions flashed through Lin Ming's mind, the pain nearly causing his spiritual sea to be torn apart!

"These are heart demons!"

Lin Ming's mind shook. This demon slave was an energy life form, one connected to heart demons. Thus, it unexpectedly had the ability to affect his own heart demons.

"Haha, Lin Ming, how is the taste of having heart demons enter your body!? I know that you have a will firm but this is a heart demon life form that I've carefully raised for 60,000 years! This demon slave is formed from the evolved obsessions of an ancient powerhouse. It was obtained by me, and then I used several hundred years to slowly refine it and cancel out its consciousness

before it was fully subdued by me! Although I'm not relying on it to kill you, it's more than enough to imprison you!"

A heart demon life form evolved from the obsessions of an ancient powerhouse?

Lin Ming was startled. Most martial artists' heart demons usually came in two extreme forms; one was something they feared more than anything else in the depths of their heart and the other was something they longed for incomparably.

Obsessions, in other words, were desires. When an unrivalled powerhouse died, for their obsessions to turn into an energy life form, that was truly incredible!

This attack that came from the demon slave burning its life away not only surrounded Lin Ming but also surrounded Xiao Moxian. Even if they knew that everything they saw was illusions, it was still difficult to rid themselves of these heart demons!

"Phoenix Trueform!"

Xiao Moxian cried out loud. The back of her clothes tore apart and two giant phoenix wings unfurled, stretching to the skies!

In that moment, wild and savage black flames rolled forth from Xiao Moxian like a tide, burning away the heart demons!

The black flames nearly reached the seventh level Concept of the Fire Laws!

Tian Mingzi's mind chilled. This Xiao Moxian was not easy to deal with; her strength wasn't much different from Lin Ming's. If this were to continue then the demon slave would be completely burnt away by her.

Tian Mingzi sneered, "You've actually cultivated to the seventh level Concept of the Fire Laws; even an ordinary World King who cultivates supernatural fire powers is no better than you! You are truly a pair of outstanding youths, but what a pity, you are both destined to die here today!"

“Shadow Snake Sword, explode!”

Tian Mingzi suddenly shot out his sword. As his sword pierced towards Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian, the surface of the black sword shimmered with a massive number of runes. As these runes shined, the sword began to disintegrate, erupting with an infinite rain of light!

Tian Mingzi wanted to blow up his own black sword!

This black sword had also been obtained by Tian Mingzi in an ancient mystic realm and was itself an Empyrean spirit treasure. However, the original artifact spirit had already died and thus Tian Mingzi had captured an ancient vicious beast to draw out its soul to replace the sword’s artifact spirit.

Then, he had spent tens of thousands of years to completely refine this sword until he became of singular mind with it!

Because this artifact spirit had been placed in by Tian Mingzi and combined with the fact that he had completely refined the sword, he could use a thought command alone to have this black sword of his explode!

The might of an exploding Empyrean spirit treasure was unimaginable! For instance, if Primordius Heavenly Palace were to explode, the consequences would be incredible. Even a planet would be blown up!

Of course, Tian Mingzi’s black sword was far inferior to Primordius Heavenly Palace in grade. Even so, this was not something that Lin Ming could withstand! If an Empyrean spirit treasure were to explode near their bodies then both Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian would be completely destroyed!

“Hahaha! Lin Ming, you are far too naïve! I know that your strength has greatly risen because you broke through the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace, and as for me, I have nearly exhausted all my strength. You rushed out now, choosing what you thought was

the perfect time and situation to do so, but the difference in our cultivation is far too great! Even though I am a dried up lamp I still have limitless methods to kill you! I am willing to abandon my demon slave and my Shadow Snake Sword, all to eliminate you! As long as I can kill you then everything I've lost can be recovered!"

Tian Mingzi's attack could be called meticulously calculated and prepared in advance. Although abandoning his demon slave that he had spent tens of thousands of years raising and Shadow his Snake Sword was an enormous loss, he didn't miss them too much because he knew that the secrets on Lin Ming's body far exceeded the value of those two!

Seeing the dazzling runes on the Shadow Snake Sword shine to the extreme as it began storing a massive explosive force, Lin Ming didn't panic at all. Rather, he sneered and said, "Tian Mingzi, are you really so sure that there is some heaven-shaking secret on my body that is enough to make up for everything you've lost? Since that's the case, let me show you just what my secret is!"

As Lin Ming spoke, his momentum rose beyond description, as if he was ready to wield the heavens and earth, dominating all of existence.

Tian Mingzi was shocked as he heard this. Lin Ming really did have a heaven-shaking secret on him... just what could it be!?

He stared with eyes wide open, his concentration completely focused. At the same time, he also stimulated the energy within the Shadow Snake Sword to explode! He wasn't so stupid that he would miss the best chance to attack just so he could see what Lin Ming's secret was!

"Could it be the inheritance of a True Divinity level character?"

Tian Mingzi instantly thought. In his opinion, he had thought that in front of Lin Ming's current achievements, even the inheritances of peak Emphyreans weren't anything at all. In the entire Divine Realm, there were over a handful of peak Emphyreans,

and this was even more when the dead were included!

With so many peak Empyrean descendants, not a single one of them was able to compare to Lin Ming.

In that moment, Lin Ming sunk his thoughts into his inner world. A vast and boundless aura of the Great Dao surged out from Lin Ming's body, as if everything had returned to the most primal era. With Lin Ming's inner world as the core, a black and mystical vortex appeared!

“Power of the heavens' stars, gather unto my body, Purple Temple Dao Palace!”

Lin Ming roared out. Within his inner world, a magnificent Dao Palace shining with glory appeared. In that moment, the vault of Bai Qi's tomb seemed to vanish, replaced with an endless starry sky!

Endless starlight gathered into a vast river of sparkling lights, all of it flowing into Lin Ming's inner world!

Lin Ming's strength began to wildly grow!

And, all of this crazily growing strength was poured into a gray cube within Lin Ming's inner world!

“Reveal yourself, Divine Crystal Magic Cube!”

Lin Ming had stepped onto the peak of the early Divine Lord realm and had also broken into the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace. With his dragon and phoenix blood energy brought into harmony, on this day he had finally obtained the ability to galvanize the Magic Cube's strength!

When Mo Eversnow had been a half-step World King she had also been able to do this because her talent was outstanding and her strength far surpassed that of all other half-step World Kings. At that time, Mo Eversnow had the ability to stimulate the Magic Cube. Of course, wanting to activate its powers to the max still required her to burn her soul to do so. And now Lin Ming's

strength was no weaker than that of Mo Eversnow in the past!

The ash gray cube floated out from Lin Ming's inner world, slowly revolving in the skies. Mysterious runes appeared all over its surface. With a single glance, one could feel their soul be trapped, forever unable to leave!

It was like this ash gray cube contained a universe unto itself, limitless, boundless, so vast that even a True Divinity could not explore its depths!

“This is... this is...!??”

As the Magic Cube appeared, Xiao Moxian had no reaction. As for Tian Mingzi, he was shocked beyond all description. A maddening demented light colored his complexion!

“Magic Cube! The Divine Crystal Magic Cube! How could it possibly... how could it possibly be in your hands! You... you... you... you actually...”

Tian Mingzi pointed a shaking finger towards Lin Ming, his words filled with anger, shock, fear!

This was an object he had waged war for, something he had spent a massive amount of effort to take, but Lin Ming had unexpectedly obtained it! He had overthrown the Verdant Feather Holy Lands for this item alone. He had killed the old World King of the Verdant Feather Holy Lands and had hunted their Saintess to her death, and yet all of his efforts had become a gift to Lin Ming!

How could he not be angry about this!?

“I knew it! I knew that bitch Mo Eversnow hadn't yet died! If you picked up the Magic Cube then you must have seen that whore!”

Tian Mingzi's expression wildly shook, as if he were losing his mind. To see Tian Mingzi lose his calm like this surprised even Xiao Moxian. Just what was that black cube? Why would Tian Mingzi have such a great response to it?

Chapter 1539 – Young Demon God

Of the three wondrous divine tools of the universe, Xiao Moxian only knew the legends of the Grandmist Spirit Bead. This was because the Good Fortune Saint Son had deliberately displayed it to the world. As for the Magic Cube and Purple Card, Xiao Moxian didn't know about them at all. There was no consensus on their names either. Throughout the different epochs and different universes, they had taken different names.

Even though Lin Ming and Tian Mingzi had repeatedly used the term Magic Cube, Xiao Moxian had no idea what they were referring to.

“Heart demon cage, shatter!”

Lin Ming shouted out loud. The Magic Cube raised a vortex of energy that spun around like a saw. The great heart demon web formed by the demon slave was torn apart by the Magic Cube!

“Uwoooo!”

The moment the demon slave completely died, it sent out a lung-retching scream. However, it could not change its fate of being swallowed up by the Magic Cube. It turned into a gray flow of energy that was gathered into the Magic Cube.

The demon slave was originally a heart demon life form. Heart demons, souls, thoughts, wills – all of these were under the category of divine within the trifecta of essence, energy and divine, thus it was utterly suppressed by the Magic Cube!

To use the Magic Cube to swallow up the demon slave was far too simple!

The ash gray Magic Cube revolved in Lin Ming's palm. Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian instantly regained their freedom to move; all of the heart demon phantoms and endless illusions around them immediately disappeared!

In that instant, Tian Mingzi's complexion became horrendously ugly. His entire body shook with rage, so angry that his eyes nearly popped out of their sockets.

“So that's how it is! I finally see! I never imagined this was possible! To think that the Magic Cube was obtained by you of all people, hahaha! How ironic. For 50,000 years I've done everything in my power to secretly search for this object that now lies in your hand, and yet I never knew any of this!”

Tian Mingzi felt nothing but utter hate and loathing in his heart! If he had known that the Magic Cube was in Lin Ming's possession then how wonderful would it have been if he had killed Lin Ming when he was still small and weak!

“Tian Mingzi, you are finished! Today I shall kill you, for myself, and also for the millions of souls that died for the Verdant Feather Holy Lands!”

Lin Ming gathered all of his strength, pouring every last ounce into the Magic Cube!

For a time, a trillion stars seemed to extinguish themselves as the world fell into a dark, ash gray space. Tian Mingzi felt a horrifying strength break into his body and lock onto his soul!

The Magic Cube was a divine tool of the soul. When Lin Ming was still weak the Magic Cube was only able to serve as a passive defense. When something broke into his spiritual sea and tried to seize his body, only then would the Magic Cube counterattack on its own.

But now, with Lin Ming's strength having risen to the Divine Lord realm, he was able to stimulate the movement of the Magic Cube. This was completely different from the past. The Magic Cube could be controlled by Lin Ming and used to attack the enemy. Even if the enemy's soul was protected by their mortal body, their soul would still be impacted by the Magic Cube!

In this wild and manic soul storm, Tian Mingzi felt his own soul shake like a leaf in a storm, almost torn from his body in the next moment!

For a time, he found it hard to control the Shadow Snake Sword to make it explode! Moreover, the key problem was that now with the web of the demon slave shattered by Lin Ming, even if the Shadow Snake Sword were to explode, Lin Ming would still be able to block it!

If so, not only would he not be able to injure Lin Ming but he would have lost his own Empyrean spirit treasure in vain!

And at this moment, Lin Ming rushed towards Tian Mingzi like a tiger descending the mountain. Strength erupted from his body as the Purple Temple Dao Palace gathered the power of the heavens' stars. Lin Ming grasped his Phoenix Blood Spear and thrust right towards Tian Mingzi's head!

“Asura Heavenly Dao, Demon Extermination!”

After Lin Ming opened the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace he used another technique within the Asura Sutra. This was a body transformation martial skill, and now with the support of the heavens' stars, Lin Ming was strong enough to use it!

Seeing Lin Ming's spear thrust towards him and even crushing the surrounding space, Tian Mingzi's complexion greatly changed. He recalled the Shadow Snake Sword, and without a thought to the danger to his life, he forced out another mouthful of blood essence and spat it on the Shadow Snake Sword. After the Shadow Snake Sword absorbed this blood essence it turned a deep shade of reddish black.

A demonic wind howled, like 10,000 grieving ghosts were crying out for justice!

“Even if you have the Magic Cube, so what!? In the past, Mo Eversnow couldn't kill me even when she burnt her soul, and now

my strength cannot be compared to how I was 50,000 years ago!”

Tian Mingzi wildly roared. He grasped his Shadow Snake Sword and cut towards Lin Ming!

This was Tian Mingzi’s strongest strike, one he made by overdrawing his life!

Facing this sword, Lin Ming’s expression was indifferent. 15 billion jins of strength erupted from his body. Supported by his arcane techniques, his strength rose again to the power of five dragons!

Bang!

A dreadful sonic explosion blew up like a detonating star. The world collapsed all around them. Tian Mingzi felt an indescribably great strength ram into his body, causing his palm to shake, his arm to go numb and the Shadow Snake Sword to fly away from his hand!

“What!?”

Tian Mingzi cried out, inexplicably shocked. Although he had speculated that Lin Ming’s strength had risen after opening the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace, he never imagined it would be to such a degree. Lin Ming’s strike could even shatter a planet!

With his bodily strength alone, Lin Ming had reached such a terrifying boundary. And when supported by his true essence and astral essence, anyone that faced Lin Ming would feel as if they were facing an ancient grand dragon in human form!

“Die!”

Lin Ming roared. He gripped his spear, aiming it at Tian Mingzi’s head and bringing it smashing down!

Tian Mingzi desperately revolved the Space Laws to avoid this spear strike. But in that time, the gargantuan strength had already caused space to collapse, making the Space Laws unusable!

Tian Mingzi stared helplessly on as this unbelievably terrifying spear rushed towards his own head!

Time seemed to slow down. A strong sense of despair and unwillingness swelled up within Tian Mingzi's heart!

Lin Ming was far too strong. After breaking into the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace, he could honestly and openly face off against a true World King! In addition, with the Magic Cube supporting him, his strength could already allow him to rule his own domain in the Divine Realm! He was no longer a young genius but an overlord!

In this life or death moment, Tian Mingzi twisted his head to the side. But then, Lin Ming's spear still crashed into his right shoulder.

Kacha!

With a loud explosive sound, the terrifying strength of five dragons fell onto Tian Mingzi's body like an unending waterfall. His protective true essence shattered and all the bones in his entire right side directly shattered like twigs. His organs burst open and blood and flesh splashed outwards!

Lin Ming's spear had forcefully torn open half of Tian Mingzi's body, tearing off his right lung and nearly severing him in two!

In that moment, Tian Mingzi's pupils lost their focus. The right half of his body drooped down and his hand was left hanging, with blood gushing out of him!

Even in ordinary times, such a heavy wound would nearly kill Tian Mingzi. This was not a strike that a Great World King could afford to take.

Much less, Tian Mingzi was in an almost exhausted state right now without much energy left. Before this he had repeatedly forced out his blood essence to use his secret techniques. And now, receiving such a heavy wound nearly destroyed his life source.

A person's life source was their very foundation. Once it was

destroyed it was nearly impossible to continue living. Even a transcendent divine pill would only be able to extend their lifespan a little bit. Sooner, and not later, death would come to claim them.

“You...”

Tian Mingzi humorlessly chuckled, vomiting blood the entire time. A year ago he had rushed into God Burying Ridge with great ambitions in his mind. With his Great World King cultivation, he hunted down the late Divine Transformation Lin Ming. But, he never imagined that this event which should have been his life’s greatest lucky chance would actually lead to his current fate!

All of those who hunted Lin Ming, whether they were World Kings or half-step Emphyreans, were killed off by Lin Ming, one at a time!

Not just that, but he possessed the Magic Cube and the inheritances of numerous powerhouses. Such a character was as terrifying as a true demon god!

However, no one would know about any of this because everyone who hunted after him had died! He would become a freakish monster that hid in the shadows of the juniors, an existence whose strength already surpassed the giants of the older generation!

Puff!

Tian Mingzi spat out a mouthful of blood. He wanted to say something but all that came out from between his lips was more and more blood.

And at this time, Lin Ming punched out with his fist, smashing into Tian Mingzi’s throat!

The trillion true essence threads of strength training’s flow like silk instantly erupted in Tian Mingzi’s throat, turning his spine into nothing but muddled flesh!

Tian Mingzi’s head fell down at an awkward angle. An unwilling and sad smile still hung on his lips, making him look like a

macabre puppet.

Then, Lin Ming pulled out the Phoenix Blood Spear and swept it out, cutting off Tian Mingzi's head.

A fierce and ambitious individual, one who had lived for 100,000 years, one who was soon about to enter the half-step Empyrean realm, had been killed by Lin Ming like this. His head bounced on the ground like a rubber ball, his eyes perfectly round, dead with everlasting regrets.

Chapter 1540 – The Dust Settles

Seeing Tian Mingzi's head roll to the ground, Xiao Moxian still felt that all of this was unreal. She recalled the last 10 years she had spent with Lin Ming, experiencing all sorts of drastic changes and upheavals, ups and downs that they crossed through with repeated life or death dangers. Finally, their strength rose by a large degree and they slowly killed those that had hunted them down. All of this was like an eternal dream.

Xiao Moxian even felt that these last 10 years were far more rich and passionate than all her life experiences before that. All of those dangers and hopes had become unforgettable memories etched into her bones.

And throughout all of these dangers, Xiao Moxian had only played a supporting role. But even so, she had obtained a massive harvest. It wasn't just her cultivation and strength that had risen, but her mentality and will had evolved.

Looking at Lin Ming once more, he was the one who had helped lead her through all of this. In terms of how his mentality and strength had been a steady constant this entire time, there was no need to mention it.

Xiao Moxian could approximately guess that most of Lin Ming's near 60 years of life had passed in such an environment. He had grown to where he was by experiencing endless adventures, battles, and life or death slaughters.

Xiao Moxian suddenly thought that it wasn't strange for Lin Ming to have such achievements at his young age.

Lin Ming was only a martial artist from the lower realms and as he trained in martial arts he had to overcome all sorts of unfavorable conditions. Compared with the Emphyrean descendants of the Divine Realm, Lin Ming was no different from an ant to an immortal being. However, it was these layers upon

layers of difficulties that led to Lin Ming's myth. Lin Ming's experiences and his near 60 years of hardships were his most precious treasures! A treasure sword was sharpened through tempering and the fragrance of a plum blossom came with the freezing cold. All of these things that Lin Ming experienced were far from what any Empyrean descendant could compare with.

For instance, in these last ten years, if it weren't Lin Ming who had undergone these experiences but some ordinary Empyrean descendant, even if their strength was the same as his they would have died countless times already.

Of course, Xiao Moxian was also well aware that Lin Ming's current achievements were impossible without lucky chances and fortuitous encounters. She immediately remembered the sudden response that Tian Mingzi had displayed after seeing the Magic Cube.

Just what was that thing? Xiao Moxian was suddenly filled with curiosity.

At this time, Lin Ming had walked near Tian Mingzi's corpse. He took Tian Mingzi's spatial ring and then formed seals with his hands, summoning a vicious-looking dao diagram to his front.

“Myriad Demon Karmic Wheel!”

The Asura Heavenly Dao was not some orthodox cultivation method. The Asura Road Master's life was also filled with slaughter and death. While this Myriad Demon Karmic Wheel could be used to attack an enemy, it could also be used to absorb an enemy's essence energy for oneself.

Then, all of the essence energy in Tian Mingzi's body was drawn out by the Myriad Demon Karmic Wheel!

Even Ash Murder's essence energy that had scattered into the air after his death was gathered by the Myriad Demon Karmic Wheel!

These essence energies were Tian Mingzi and Ash Murder's life

essence. If Lin Ming didn't gather them with the Myriad Demon Karmic Wheel, then after several tens of thousands of years, these essence energies sealed within Bai Qi's tomb would slowly evolve into existences without any thoughts of their own. They would only be ghosts that knew to swallow others. In many mystic realms, these types of ghosts would be a source of grave danger.

Now that Lin Ming had sealed all of this essence energy into the Myriad Demon Karmic Wheel, this situation naturally wouldn't happen.

“Essence energy of all living beings, be used by me!”

Lin Ming flicked his finger and the essence energy within the Myriad Demon Karmic Wheel rerouted towards the Essence Spirit Embryo Stone!

Drawn out essence energy was more suitable to cultivate avatars. If it were Lin Ming's true self then although absorbing these essence energies could increase the cultivation of his body, too much would leave behind hidden dangers within him. But, the Essence Spirit Embryo Stone was nourished from the infinite essence energy gathered by the God Beast Tomb array formation, thus there was no need to be careful with it.

Hu - !

In that instant, all of the essence energy poured into the Essence Spirit Embryo Stone. The Essence Spirit Embryo Stone's entire body emitted crackling sounds as its muscles and organs wriggled about. All of this blood vitality was completely absorbed by it, and the strength and astral essence within the avatar continued to grow!

The body of the Essence Spirit Embryo Stone was similar to the saints'. In other words, it was an existence especially bred for body transformation.

Its cultivation method was also similar to the saints'. If one had

to describe the Essence Spirit Embryo Stone's cultivation base, then using the saint race's Saint Lord boundary was more appropriate.

And after absorbing the essence energy of a Great World King and a half-step Empyrean, the astral essence within the avatar wildly circulated through its body, joining with the energy that was already within it to begin with. Without any hindrance, its cultivation rose by a small boundary.

This was something Lin Ming already expected.

The Essence Spirit Embryo Stone could easily rise in cultivation boundaries. Let alone a small boundary in the Saint Lord realm, there wouldn't be a bottleneck even when entering the Holy Lord realm from the Saint Lord realm.

The only restriction to the avatar's cultivation was Lin Ming's own cultivation. In other words, if Lin Ming's own cultivation was lacking then the Essence Spirit Embryo Stone would encounter a bottleneck. Moreover, if Lin Ming was much weaker than his avatar then he simply wouldn't have the strength to control the much stronger Essence Spirit Embryo Stone.

Lin Ming let out a long sigh of relief as he finished. For Tian Mingzi and Ash Murder's essence energy to be used by him after their death, they had truly died miserable.

“Lin Ming!”

Just as Lin Ming finished, Xiao Moxian blinked over and looked towards Lin Ming.

As Lin Ming met her playful eyes, his thoughts stirred. He was able to approximately guess what she was thinking of. He laughed, saying, “You want to ask me what the Magic Cube is, right?”

“What I want to know is... just what sort of thing allowed my lover to grow from a common martial artist from the lower realms into the number one talent of his race?” Xiao Moxian said, her eyes

filled with curiosity. But, she suddenly changed the topic and said a bit contradictorily, “But, I don’t think you should tell me... this should be your life’s greatest secret, and if you tell me...”

Xiao Moxian dragged out her words, looking at Lin Ming all the while.

Lin Ming thought for a moment. Then, he straightened up and solemnly said, “This is indeed my greatest secret. But, the reason I was able to reach this step is not just the Magic Cube. The Magic Cube accompanied me during my youth when I first stepped on the road of martial arts and helped me traverse that most difficult period of my early road.

“Since I was willing to take out the Magic Cube during my battle with Tian Mingzi, I have no intentions of hiding the truth from you. Moreover, during this adventure through the Asura Road, I will slowly gain the power to protect the Magic Cube!”

Lin Ming’s current strength was high enough that he could defeat an ordinary World King. But, his trial through the Asura Road had yet to end. Lin Ming intended to continue to train here until he reached at least the late Divine Lord realm or half-step Holy Lord. Perhaps he would even wait until he broke through to the Holy Lord realm and was able to kill a Great World King before considering leaving.

At that time, Lin Ming would be able to fully refine the Primordius Gate and fully control Primordius Heavenly Palace. Then, by relying on this Empyrean spirit treasure, even if an Empyrean were to chase after him they still might not be able to kill him.

Only in that state would Lin Ming truly be able to freely wander the Divine Realm and display his skills in the upcoming great calamity!

Lin Ming raised his right hand and an ash gray cube floated into his palm, slowly revolving around, filled with a mystical aura.

He said, “Xian’er, this is the Magic Cube. I accidentally obtained it when I was 15 years old, in a restaurant. At the time, I was working for the restaurant and –”

As Lin Ming was speaking, Xiao Moxian suddenly covered his mouth with her hand.

She grinned, “You don’t need to say anything. If you trust me enough to tell me your greatest secret, I am more than satisfied with that. Although I am curious, I don’t really need to know.

“When we leave the Asura Road I will have to return to Demondawn Heavenly Palace. If my parents, grandfather, or the Monster Emperor find out about what happened between us, then they will become enraged... moreover, there is my engagement with the Good Fortune Saint Son. If this matter were to become a problem then I would be confined to my quarters and not even the heavens know what would happen after that. If I know the secrets of your Magic Cube, then even if I don’t willingly reveal them, that doesn’t mean someone won’t use an arcane technique to learn information about you from me...”

Xiao Moxian had already considered this for a long time. As Lin Ming listened to this, he was silent for a while. “You... do you plan on returning to the monster race and demon race no matter what?”

If Xiao Moxian didn’t return to the monster and demon races and instead stayed within Lin Ming’s inner world, then no one would know about it.

Xiao Moxian lightly sighed. She nodded, “Yes. I will return, because they are my people...”

Xiao Moxian was a very independent and free-thinking woman. She was bold and brave, and if she favored something then she would recklessly pursue it no matter what others thought or said.

But at the same time, she would not degenerate into becoming a

servile dependent of any man. She had her own martial art's goal, her own pursuits, and her own faith in herself.

Just like Lin Ming who would never betray humanity, Xiao Moxian would not discard her own race. Although the future was filled with unknowns and uncertainties, she wouldn't evade her future but face it head on.

“I understand.” Lin Ming gently embraced Xiao Moxian. “Let's leave this place.”

Chapter 1541 – Heading Deeper Into the Asura Road

In the depths of the Great Desolate there was a virgin forest that was untainted by human hands. These trees had been here for hundreds of thousands of years, and because these trees originated from ancient breeds they grew much larger. So large that dozens of people together couldn't wrap their hands around them. Their crowns pierced thousands of feet high, straight into the skies, and their large and vibrant leaves were like clouds that blocked out the sun.

In this wild forest, there was a keening wolf howl that impacted into the heavens. All of the birds and beasts in the woods were startled by this howl and fled in droves.

Bang!

With an explosion of energy a shockwave rose up. A great black wolf as large as an elephant tumbled through the air and smashed into a large tree, causing an avalanche of leaves to be shaken off.

The trees in this wild forest were all spiritual trees. Their dense trunks were more like pillars of divine iron and as this great black wolf crashed into the tree trunk it dizzily bounced off and landed in the deep foliage.

“I've got you!”

With a clear cry, a black-clothed girl rushed through the woods like a black butterfly, arriving right in front of the great black wolf in just several blinks of the eye. She raised a black badge she had prepared and pushed it in between the great wolf's eyebrows.

In the next moment, the great black wolf's body shrunk as if it were being forced down by some strange energy. Its body became smaller and smaller, melting and pouring away into that black badge. Finally, that wolf's massive body was absorbed by the black

badge without anything remaining.

Soon after, the black badge in this girl's hand turned deep blue. It slowly floated in the air, exuding a mysterious charm.

This black-clothed girl was Xiao Moxian and the mission badge in her hand was one she obtained in Heavendevil City.

“Blue soul level god rune – Darkness Demon Wolf, it's mine now!”

The darkness demon wolf wasn't a true life form but an existence that evolved from the energy of the Asura Road, similar to the nightmare beats in the Divine Dream World. As long as one could kill it then one could use a mission badge to absorb it and then transform it into a god rune.

Xiao Moxian flicked her fingers and this rune disappeared into her body, vanishing from sight.

Over half a year had passed since the battle with Tian Mingzi. During this time period, Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian had returned to Heavendevil City and bought up all the mission badges that were related to the final smelting trial. Then, they had slowly completed these missions, transforming them into god runes.

As for Lin Ming's servant Soulwhite, he had been kept in Heavendevil City. Lin Ming didn't need him accompanying him anymore.

Soulwhite wasn't too useful to Lin Ming now. Soulwhite had spent most of his life out in the periphery of the Asura Road and had little to no understandings of what happened deep in the Great Desolate or deeper in the Asura Road. Still, Lin Ming didn't undo the slave seal in his body yet in order to prevent him from leaking information and causing trouble.

“We've just about completed all the missions in the Great Desolate. If we go 30,000 miles east then there will be a transmission array. We can take that transmission array to reach

the middle-rear sections of the Asura Road.”

At this time, Lin Ming emerged from the woods. Most of the god runes in the Great Desolate had been obtained by the both of them.

In fact, according to what Soulwhite said, if the two of them formed a team to enter the final smelting trial they would only need to collect a single set of runes; the second set would only be a spare.

“Are we finally going to the middle-rear sections of the Asura Road?” Xiao Moxian asked, excitedly tracing her chin. The middle-rear section of the Asura Road was also the so-called ‘inner’ Asura Road. The final smelting trial was also located in the inner Asura Road. After the end of the final trial, she and Lin Ming would both return to the Divine Realm and that would be the time when they would have thoroughly completed the Asura Road trial.

A 30,000 mile distance wasn’t far away to Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian. If they flew, it would only take them several quarter hours to cover the distance. But this time, Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian spent almost two months walking the distance.

During these two months, Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian were constantly in battle.

More than half a year ago, Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian had just broken through their boundaries and their strengths had dramatically risen. But, because their strength rose too quickly their foundations weren’t too solid.

For instance, to combine the seventh level Concept of the Fire laws with his actual combat skills or save energy within their inner world, all of this required time.

But, Lin Ming wasn’t worried. He had several dozen years to fully accomplish all of this.

.....

The Great Desolate was a far-reaching land with broad, sweeping

borders. In the deepest depths of the Great Desolate there were said to be ancient God Beasts. In addition to the convoluted space-time, it was an extremely complex environment. Even Emphyreans shrunk back upon venturing too far.

The Great Desolate was also the dividing line between the outer Asura Road and the inner Asura Road. If a trial challenger wanted to pass deeper into the Asura Road, they could not travel through the Great Desolate and could only take one of the several large-scale transmission arrays that ferried people back and forth.

On the eastern side of the Great Desolate there was a city. This city wasn't too large and was surrounded by the Great Desolate; it could be considered far away from all else. All those that travelled through this city were peak masters and most of them were trial challengers that needed to travel into the inner sections of the Asura Road.

“Pardon me, is this the transmission array to enter deeper into the Asura Road?”

The transmission array guard heard a simple and indifferent question. The one who spoke had a voice filled with energy.

As he turned he could see a young man and woman standing behind him. These two youths had extraordinary looks that brightened the eyes, but one could see from their worn out clothes that they had experienced a long and arduous journey to arrive here.

Those people that could travel through the Great Desolate on foot and arrive at the transmission array were without a doubt peak masters.

“Yes.”

The guard respectfully replied, no showing any disdain because of the young age of these two. From these two, especially the black-clothed man, he could feel a faintly roiling killing intent. This sort

of killing intent could only be developed through long periods of life or death slaughters.

“We’re planning on going deeper in.” The black-clothed youth said. This black-clothed youth was naturally Lin Ming, who had crossed halfway through the Great Desolate to arrive here.

“Mm... alright. But, I want to caution you two: this transmission array can only go one way. In other words, it can deliver you deeper into the Asura Road. If you want to return you will have to rely on other methods to do so.”

The guard earnestly said. Lin Ming was already aware of this point. Once a trial challenger entered deeper into the Asura Road, if they wanted to leave they would have to satisfy certain conditions, and, the conditions in the inner Asura Road were far more severe than those on the periphery. Many people were unable to accomplish these conditions and could only continue living on in the Asura Road for the rest of their lives. Of course, to certain people, this wasn’t necessarily bad. Many masters preferred the dangers of the Asura Road where death and slaughter hid around every corner.

The light of the transmission array shined like a blazing sun. in the next moment, Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian vanished together with other trial challengers from the Great Desolate. They passed through the void and truly entered the Asura Road.

Chapter 1542 – Divine Rune City

A dark wind howled through the boundless land. Lin Ming soon left the dizzying spatial transmission and found himself in the center of a vast wilderness, knee deep in grass. What surprised Lin Ming was that when they left it had been daytime, but here was a dark night, with a depressing gloom covering the world, hiding all light.

This pitch black environment immediately raised Lin Ming's guard. He spread out his sense and didn't discover any vicious beasts, only some other trial challengers that had come here with him and Xiao Moxian.

Because the Asura Road was far too long, it took an exorbitant amount of energy to open a transmission channel from the outer Asura Road to the inner Asura Road. Thus they would only start the transmission array once dozens of people had gathered.

The trial challengers that arrived here with Lin Ming rose up one after another. Without a word, many of them launched their movement techniques and flew away. Some people began discussing amongst themselves; they were clearly in groups and were discussing their next step after arriving here. The two that caught Lin Ming's eye was a young-looking man and woman not too far away.

At this time, the man and woman had taken out a compass as if they were investigating something.

“Spiritas...”

Lin Ming's eyebrows slightly arched up. The skin of these two shined with a faintly shimmering light; this was a sign of the soul race.

The body of the spiritas contained an extremely rich soul energy. If they didn't deliberately conceal the light they emitted, they

would glow extremely beautifully. In the dark of night, they would be like enchanting illusions.

This young spiritas pair had outstanding looks and their foundation was extremely solid. One could instantly sense they were geniuses amongst their generation.

However, their cultivation wasn't too high. In Lin Ming's opinion, their cultivation was just enough to enter the Great Desolate, but it seemed a bit forced for them to come to the inner Asura Road. This was true even if they could jump ranks to fight.

At this time, the compass in their hands lit up. The young man's face brightened and he happily said with a sound transmission, "Big Sister, we're in luck this time. It seems that we were right when we thought that the transmission array to the inner Asura Road would bring us to a random location. Fortunately for us, we didn't land in some place with vicious beasts and our arrival area is also extremely safe and near Divine Rune City. If we hurry along we should be able to arrive in three days."

From their words it was clear that these two spiritas youths were brother and sister. But at this moment, as the older sister heard her little brother speak, she humorlessly said, "What is so good about this place. Although we're near Divine Rune City there is still a wild mountain range separating us. With our strength, wanting to travel through that mountain range will be too difficult, and if we must go around it that will make our journey far longer and we might also encounter other dangers..."

The young spiritas girl said, her eyebrows pressed together in a frown.

Their cultivation was indeed not high. Wanting to travel through the inner Asura Road was just barely manageable already.

As the two of them were speaking, most of the other martial artists had flown away. The only ones remaining were Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian, who had yet to leave.

The young spirit girl looked over at Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian for a while. Then, the light in her eyes changed and she greeted them, “Hey there, how do you do.”

Lin Ming looked back at the young spirit girl, nodding his head in response.

“Do you two not know where you want to go?” The trial challengers hadn’t stayed in this grasslands for a long time; those that knew where their destination was had already left, leaving only Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian idling about. From this, one could see that it was likely they were unfamiliar with the area and didn’t know where to go.

Lin Ming didn’t reply; this was considered his tacit agreement.

“May I ask, would you two like to accompany us to Divine Rune City? Divine Rune City is the largest city in the surrounding area, and in terms of influence even an Empyrean Holy Land is inferior to Divine Rune City! If you go to Divine Rune City, whether it is supplies or missions, it is a very good place to go.”

Divine Rune City?

Lin Ming’s thoughts stirred. Was this related to divine runic technique?

He remembered that just when he defeated Soulwhite and he was begging for his life, Soulwhite had said that he was skilled in alchemy and inscription so taking him in as a slave would be far more useful than killing him.

And in the Asura Road, a higher level inscription master wasn’t called an inscription master but a divine runic master.

In the Divine Realm that was ruled by humanity, when a martial artist reached an extremely high boundary, the inscription arts weren’t much useful to them anymore. But, this was different in the Asura Road. According to what Soulwhite had said, in the Asura Road, god runes and inscription could be combined together

in a wondrous evolution, creating an entirely different form of inscription altogether. This was why divine runic masters and alchemists had an extremely high status in the Asura Road.

And, the best alchemists and divine runic masters in the Asura Road were all spiritas. This was because the spiritas all possessed a formidable soul force that made them perfectly suited to studying alchemy and divine runic technique. When this was combined with the long inheritance of the soul race, they were several times greater than all the other races in these two skills!

This Divine Rune City, with its name, was most likely related to this.

“Divine Rune City is a city of divine runic masters?” Lin Ming asked after thinking for a moment.

“That’s right. Several hundred million years ago, many top divine runic masters of the Asura Road gathered together to form a divine runic association. At the time, the city they chose as their headquarters was quite ordinary, but as time passed and they took in more and more divine runic masters, growing all the while, they slowly had martial artists from all over coming to them, seeking help. After that, the city eventually developed into the current Divine Rune City.

Not only are there divine runic masters but also a massive number of alchemists, refiners, and top masters from all around. Me and my little brother came to the inner Asura Road in order to go to Divine Rune City and experience the divine runic technique there and also participate in an assessment or competition of the Divine Runic Masters Association. If we’re lucky, we might be able to apprentice ourselves to someone there...”

The young spiritas girl knew she was lacking in strength so she thought to join with others. And if she were to accompany others, it was best to form trust with them, thus she had told Lin Ming her goal in going to Divine Rune City. Lin Ming also understood why

these two came to the inner Asura Road even if their cultivations were lacking.

Lin Ming soon understood the whole city. This brother and sister believed that with their status as divine runic masters, they would be able to obtain sufficient protection in Divine Rune City. The only danger for them would be the road to Divine Rune City, thus they had invited Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian to travel together with them.

As for Lin Ming, when he was at the outer Asura Road he had Soulwhite as a guide. But now that he was in the inner Asura Road, he was unfamiliar with the people and places here, and he didn't even know where he needed to go to obtain missions. If he could find a city and inquire into some information then that would naturally be the best choice for him.

And, this Divine Rune City interested Lin Ming very much, because Lin Ming was also once an inscription master.

In the past, when Lin Ming first stepped onto his road of martial arts, in his weakest moments he had relied on inscription technique to gain the training resources he needed to overcome this most difficult period.

But after that, as Lin Ming's strength rose, his inscription technique could no longer follow the footsteps of his cultivation. Even so, Lin Ming always held a certain sentimental feeling towards inscription arts.

He looked towards Xiao Moxian and said with a sound transmission, "What do you think about taking a trip to Divine Rune City?"

Xiao Moxian said, "It's up to you. I'll follow where you go."

"Then we're going to Divine Rune City!" Lin Ming decided. Then, he agreed to the young spirit girl's offer.

The spirit siblings were overjoyed. Although they could faintly

feel that Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian had relatively ordinary cultivations, they were still stronger than the two of them. Moreover, there was strength in numbers. With the four of them, crossing the wild mountain range shouldn't be a problem, and in a worst case situation, if they met some sort of powerful vicious beast that they couldn't defeat, they would each still have a higher chance of surviving if they scattered and fled.

“My name is Yue Liuxing and this is my little brother Yue Qifeng.” The spirit girl introduced herself and her brother.

“I am Lin Ming and this is my wife Ji Xian'er.”

Lin Ming didn't bother to hide his name. The Asura Road was far too large and there were also too many duplicate names. Moreover, he had already killed Tian Mingzi and Naqi, and the place where they died was in the extremely isolated tomb of Bai Qi. All of this had been meticulously cleaned up by Lin Ming so that no one would know about it, thus Lin Ming didn't fear anyone discovering his true identity.

Lin Ming had only casually introduced her, but Xiao Moxian felt a bit warmer as she heard this. Her cheeks flushed a little. In truth, she wasn't really considered Lin Ming's wife, and although the two of them had made love and dual cultivated, they had never held a marriage ceremony and the two of them were destined to part ways in the future. To describe their relationship as lovers was much more appropriate.

Along the way, Lin Ming continued chatting with Yue Liuxing, gaining a much higher understanding of Divine Rune City. In the city, all divine runic masters were divided into different ranks depending on their attainments in the divine runic arts. Every higher level required tests and there was also a corresponding competition.

As for the siblings, they were both geniuses in divine runic arts. Their goal in going to Divine Rune City, besides apprenticing

themselves to someone, was also to compete in the many competitions. The prizes for these competitions were quite generous.

As they spoke, Yue Qifeng discovered that Lin Ming had some original opinions into divine runic arts. This surprised him. He asked, “Big Brother Lin Ming, do you understand the divine runic arts?”

Lin Ming was 10 years older than Yue Qifeng so Yue Qifeng had referred to Lin Ming as big brother.

Lin Ming smiled, “Barely. But, what I understand is inscription technique, and it’s just a little. It’s not comparable at all to your divine runic arts.”

Lin Ming’s understandings of inscription technique had come from the soul fragments in the Magic Cube. And in the past, the people that were killed by Mo Eversnow and had their souls sucked into the Magic Cube couldn’t be considered much anyway. They were all Tian Mingzi’s subordinates and their cultivations were Divine Lords or Holy Lords, without a single World King amongst them. If their inscription technique was placed in the lower realms then it would be marvelous without compare, but if placed in the Divine Realm, it wasn’t considered much at all.

Moreover, the inscription technique of the Divine Realm was cast far behind by the long legacy of the spiritas in the Asura Road. In the Divine Realm, a top character like an Empyrean wouldn’t study inscription technique because the value wasn’t too great.

But the divine runic arts of the Asura Road were different. According to what Soulwhite had said, the divine runic arts could display effects beyond belief.

Thus, Lin Ming was well aware that someone with his caliber of understanding was nothing when placed in Divine Rune City.

Chapter 1543 – The Qualifications to Enter the City

“The wild mountain range is in front of us!”

After the group traveled for around half a day, Yue Liuxing suddenly pointed towards a dark mountain that appeared before them.

“This is the most dangerous part of the road. We must join together and fight as one. There are many different types of vicious beasts, but I understand their weaknesses and the ways to fight the most vicious types. Listen to my directions in battle.”

As Yue Liuxing reached the base of the mountain range she pulled out a jade slip. Recorded within this jade slip was the terrain of the mountain range as well as the distribution degree of dangerous vicious beasts scattered throughout it.

This surprised Lin Ming. According to most reasoning, the inner and outer Asura Road were nearly completely isolated from each other. He never imagined that these two siblings would have information on the inner Asura Road and in such an exhaustive manner that they even possessed a map of this mountain range detailing the distribution of vicious beasts.

“Our cultivation isn’t high so we can only avoid as many danger zones as we can. However, there are some places we won’t be able to avoid. For instance, this place here is the habitat of the giant blood eagle and we have to cross this area no matter what. The giant blood eagle has a bloodline connection to the ancient Roc, so it is an extremely dangerous place to be. If we meet one or two we should be able to deal with them but if we meet a group then we’ll have no choice but to flee our separate ways and hope that the heavens smile down on us.”

Yue Liuxing earnestly stated her precautions and possible tactics.

Xiao Moxian rubbed her chin as she listened to this. It was unknown how the ancestors of the monster beasts obtained their God Beast bloodline, but these bloodlines could be passed on for multiple generations without weakening.

These kinds of vicious beasts were extremely nourishing, especially for mortals.

Xiao Moxian chuckled, whispering to herself, “It seems my Big Yellow will have something to eat. Although the God Beast bloodline purity of these beasts is low, there should be an effect if he eats many of them...”

“Mm? What did you say?” Yue Liuxing asked, distracted.

“Haha, it’s nothing.”

One hour later.

Woosh!

A sharp crackling sound howled through the air. A massive blood red eagle with a fleshy head emitted terrifying screams as Xiao Moxian’s whip slashed over its body, breaking one of its wings.

Xiao Moxian’s whip was like a cord of black lightning, nearly impossible to follow. Where it went, the void would sizzle, the piercing air penetrating through the ears!

As the group of four traveled all this way, Lin Ming hadn’t done anything at all. Xiao Moxian personally cut down all the dangers that appeared.

Whether it was the giant blood eagle or any other type of vicious beast, all of them were cut down by Xiao Moxian like vegetables. Not even Yue Liuxing or Yue Qifeng were able to interfere.

“So fierce!”

The handsome and somewhat shy Yue Qifeng’s mouth turned into an O shape as he saw this splendid battle take place. His eyes shined as he looked at Xiao Moxian, clearly filled with awe and

worship.

As for Yue Liuxing, this was completely unexpected. She never imagined that the two allies she pulled into her group would be so fierce. She originally thought that they would have to work together and pass through countless life or death dangers to travel through this mountain range, but what really happened was something completely different.

“Big Yellow, it's time to eat!”

As Xiao Moxian called out, there was a cheerful little roar as a small furry yellow dog rushed out from Xiao Moxian's spirit beast bag like a tiny whirlwind. Big Yellow drooled as it hurtled towards the giant blood eagle, cleanly eating it away in just a few moments of time.

This left Yue Liuxing and her little brother dazed. They finally understood what Xiao Moxian had said by ‘It seems my Big Yellow will have something to eat now’.

“How can that little thing eat so much?”

Yue Qifeng felt this all to be unbelievable. She struggled to imagine how such a small body could eat so much.

“That beast that looks like a little yellow dog should be the girl's contract beast. If that girl is so fierce then her contract beast likely isn't ordinary either. Maybe it is some sort of desolate ancient vicious beast...”

Yue Liuxing murmured. If it was a desolate ancient vicious beast then she wouldn't be surprised by how much it ate.

Yue Liuxing's guess was more or less correct, however Big Yellow was not desolate ancient vicious beast but a Taotie God Beast. Although its bloodline was inferior to the bloodline purity of Lin Ming's Black Dragon, a God Beast was still a God Beast. This sort of gluttonous God Beast formed a separate world within its body. After growing up, it could even swallow a planet.

After seeing the little yellow dog cleanly eat up the vicious beast, Yue Liuxing's eyes turned to Lin Ming. To her, Lin Ming was filled with even more mysteries.

She could faintly feel that Xiao Moxian was following Lin Ming. If so, this meant that Lin Ming might even be stronger than Xiao Moxian!

She didn't know just where these two humans had come from. Their strength was strong to the point of being abnormal.

With Xiao Moxian and Lin Ming, the four of them reached Divine Rune City safely, without any accident at all.

Divine Rune City was the largest city in the surrounding 10 million miles. A massive number of divine runic masters, alchemists, and top martial arts masters were gathered here.

Such a city naturally had to have an imposing atmosphere. Lin Ming wouldn't be surprised if it had city walls as grand and tall as a mountain ridge.

However, the reality was that Divine Rune City had no city walls at all. Instead of city walls, it had a titanic large-scale defensive array formation!

This array formation also had the effect of gathering heaven and earth origin energy. Lin Ming could feel that the origin energy in the surrounding several hundred thousands of miles was being slowly gathered towards this array formation, finally settling near Divine Rune City. This caused the heaven and earth origin energy here to be thick to the point of nearly condensing into liquid.

If one could cultivate here they would absolutely have astronomical results. Just this advantage alone was enough to have countless martial artists seek out this land.

Of course, this array formation needed a tremendous amount of energy to support it, otherwise it wouldn't activate. Even an Empyrean Holy Land would be overwhelmed with the task of

supporting such a gargantuan array formation.

From this, it could be seen that this Divine Rune City was disgustingly wealthy!

However, this was also well within reason. Whether it was divine runic masters, alchemists, or refiners, all were rich characters amongst all martial artists. Lin Ming wholeheartedly pursued the martial path and thus didn't place much focus on these occupations, so he didn't have many interactions with these martial artists who focused on these secondary skills.

Lin Ming originally thought that entering a treasure land like Divine Rune City required a high entrance fee, and this entrance fee would naturally be used to maintain the activation of the array formation.

But, he didn't think that there would be no entrance fee at all. Rather, the city had extremely high standards for all martial artists entering.

As Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian were about to enter the city, they were stopped by the city guard. These city guards had late Divine Lord realm cultivations. In a small Holy Land, Divine Lord martial artists could serve as outer court Elders, but in Divine Rune City, they could only serve as gate guards.

“Determine your city entrance qualifications!”

The voices of the city guards were indifferent, with a faintly superior aura to them. It had to be known that the guards of Divine Rune City were part of the Divine Runic Corps and thus they were treated extremely well. Their status was not low and not only was their strength extraordinary but they also had a considerable level of talents. There were many weak martial artists that wished to apply to become a guard for Divine Rune City but simply lacked the ability to do so.

“Me and my little brother are divine runic masters.”

Yue Liuxing said. She drew traces in the air, her fingertips leaving behind paths of energy that coalesced into beautiful runes. With a glance to Yue Qifeng, he also quickly followed suit.

As Lin Ming saw this, he recalled a scene from when he was 15 years old. When he had just obtained the Magic Cube, he had to go to the Seven Profound Martial House's Zither Quarters to look up information about sky worm silk. But, because there were many beautiful women there, he had been mistaken by the elder senior sister there for some sort of sexual pervert who had gone to seek out advantages from the many beautiful women. The result was that Lin Ming had met Qin Xingxuan and had to prove that he was an inscription master, and the method he used was drawing an inscription symbol in the air.

At the time, Qin Xingxuan had been shocked by Lin Ming's inscription technique. That was also the first time they met.

"Mm, your talent is satisfactory!" A city guard nodded, revealing a convinced expression. These two city guards were also spiritas and had an approximate understanding of the divine runic arts. They were able to see how talented Yue Qifeng and Yue Liuxing were.

"Then you fellows, you don't seem to be divine runic masters..."

The city guards turned to Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian, and upon seeing that they weren't spiritas, realized that they likely weren't divine runic masters. The talent of the other races in the divine runic arts simply couldn't compare to those of the soul race, thus most of those from other races usually wouldn't choose to become divine runic masters because no matter how hard they tried, it was far too hard for them to catch up to the talent of the spiritas.

"We aren't." Lin Ming didn't count on drawing up some half-baked inscription runes to pass.

A city guard expectantly nodded. Then, he took out two god rune talismans from his spatial ring. These two god rune talismans

turned into seals that sank into Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian's body, casually wandering through them.

"What is this?" Lin Ming could feel no malice behind these runes thus he didn't try to stop them, but he was still unhappy that these city guards investigated them so suddenly.

"It is to determine your cultivation and skeletal age. Although there is no fee to enter Divine Rune City, the standards for entering are extremely strict. Otherwise, just the rich heaven and earth origin energy here would have had the city bursting at the seams with martial artists! Those that can enter the city must either be talented geniuses, powerhouses, or divine runic masters, alchemists, or refining masters!

"Since you two aren't powerhouses, divine runic masters, alchemists, or anything like that, you can only rely on your talent to enter, otherwise you cannot enter the city. We only allow the most extraordinary of individuals to enter!"

The city guard proudly said. Lin Ming was startled as he heard this. If they admitted only the most extraordinary of individuals then it wasn't a surprise that Divine Rune City's strength had developed to such a terrifying degree.

After the city guard finished, he looked at the results of the runes. From what he saw, he was left dumbfounded!

He never thought that the young man and woman standing in front of him were two monstrous geniuses!

Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian had youthful appearances, but the truth was that martial artists had many techniques to disguise their looks. It was hard to tell one's age from appearances alone, but, these divine runes would not be mistaken; they could measure a person's skeletal age to within a year.

"One has cultivated martial arts for over 40 years, and the other for more than 50 years... you..."

The city guard's mouth fell open. To reach the Divine Lord realm at only 40-50 years was simply the talent of an abnormal freak! He had thought that his talent was good to begin with, but compared to this young man and woman in front of him, he was simply garbage.

Chapter 1544 – Lin Ming’s Goal

“Do we have the qualifications to enter the city?”

“Yes, of course you do!” The city guard respectfully handed over the city tokens. In the 33 Heavens, because humanity had devolved in the past, their status wasn’t too high in the Asura Road. If they went to some places it was likely they would be looked down upon and excluded by others. But in the Asura Road, strength stood above all. If one’s talent reached a certain boundary then regardless of whether they were human or some other race they would be respected all the same.

The city guard suspected that Lin Ming was the successor of some great influence; he naturally couldn’t offend such a person.

When Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian obtained the qualifications to enter the city, Yue Liuxing looked at them curiously. She had seen the amazed expressions of the city guard from the side of her eyes. Without a doubt, Lin Ming’s strength and talent were far more terrifying than she had originally anticipated.

“We will be going to the Divine Runic Master Guild for the examination now, would you like to come and have a look?”

Originally, after entering Divine Rune City, the relationship between the two groups should have ended here. However, Yue Liuxing and Yue Qifeng were far too young and although they were proud of their talents in the divine runic arts, their actual combat strengths were somewhat lacking. If they could become friends with two powerhouses like Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian then that would give them many advantages.

“Mm, we’ll come too.” Lin Ming readily agreed. This startled Xiao Moxian. She said with a true essence sound transmission, “Since when did you enjoy joining in on the fun? Did you want to see how great the difference is between the inscription masters of the Divine Realm and the divine runic masters of the Asura Road?”

Lin Ming shook his head, “It’s just convenient. The reason I want to go to the Divine Runic Master Guild is also the true reason why I came to Divine Rune City. I want to find the path of how to cultivate the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace!”

To cultivate the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace required two essential factors. One was inheritances; in other words, cultivation method manuals! And second was resources, in other words pills and other materials!

In terms of cultivation methods, the Celestial Tyrant Manual that Lin Ming trained in mostly focused on the Eight Inner Hidden Gates, in particular the Gates of Life and Death. The Esoteric Immortality Pill for the Gate of Life and the Esoteric Mortality Pill for the Gate of Death were both found in the Celestial Tyrant Manual.

But in terms of the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace, the Celestial Tyrant Manual didn’t have many records on it. Or, it was more accurate to say that these records had already been lost. When Mo Eversnow’s grandfather obtained the Celestial Tyrant Manual in the ancient ruins where he also found the Magic Cube, it had been incomplete.

Thus, now that Lin Ming had broken through to the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace, he was at a loss as to how he should further continue.

The Asura Sutra First Volume also had body transformation cultivation methods. But, these methods were mostly focused on raising the Essence Spirit Embryo Stone, and in terms of type, they were far closer to the saint race. There was a great difference between the Asura Sutra First Volume and the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace that humanity cultivated.

Missing cultivation methods was one part, and pills and resources were another.

In the essence gathering system aspect, Lin Ming didn’t have too

high a need for pills. But in the body transformation system, it was impossible to continue without pills.

When Lin Ming first tried to complete Tempering Marrow, he had used up several thousand Heaven Opening Pills without accomplishing it! And to the relatively minor person that Lin Ming was back then, every Heaven Opening Pill was extremely precious. In the past, the Martial House Master of the Seven Profound Martial House, Qin Ziya, had been stranded at the peak Houtian realm for over 20 years, unable to break into the Xiantian realm because he didn't have a Heaven Opening Pill. That was how precious they were!

Tempering Marrow was divided into percentages, and the closer one reached to 100%, the more difficult it would become to continue. Lin Ming finally had to rely on the Shattered Demon Heart Crystal and only then was he able to forcefully lift his Tempering Marrow boundary to 60-70%. Finally, he had relied on the Nirvana Dragon Root he obtained in the Demon Emperor Palace to bring his Tempering Marrow to perfection.

Following that, when he opened the Eight Inner Hidden Gates, each gate was more difficult than the last. In cultivating the body transformation technique, Lin Ming had spent a massive amount of heavenly materials. Each heavenly material that Lin Ming used for his breakthroughs possessed a shocking value for that relative cultivation level, enough that martial artists several boundaries higher would be willing to engage in life or death battles for them!

Finally, when Lin Ming broke through the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace, that was also because he had accumulated resources to the peak. Not only did he have the support of the Grandmist Spirit Bead essence and the sealed energy from the Essence Spirit Embryo Stone, he also needed Xiao Moxian's primordial yin blood.

With these three incomparably precious treasures together, only then did he accomplish a miracle and complete his breakthrough of the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace. From this alone, one could see

that walking down the road of body transformation was truly a heaven-defying path.

Lin Ming had only opened a single star, and there were still eight stars behind that. Thinking about it, he felt a bit powerless and frustrated. Even though Lin Ming had a firm heart of martial arts, it was still hard to not be bitter about it.

The following eight stars would inevitably require an astronomical amount of resources. Not just that, but looking for materials, looking for pill recipes, finding a master alchemist, all of these problems were enough to cause a grand headache!

“It would be great if I could become a divine runic master and alchemist...”

This thought flashed through Lin Ming’s mind. However, whether it was the divine runic arts or alchemy, it wasn’t something that could be learnt in one day. One had to study from the very start in order to be successful. Even though Lin Ming’s perception was high, it would still be difficult for him.

Lin Ming could only take a step back and consider befriending some high rank divine runic masters and alchemists of Divine Rune City. If they had something they were interested in then he might be able to ask them to help him refine some pills or draw up some inscriptions.

However, any divine runic master or alchemist who could refine the pills for the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace would inevitably be a grandmaster. One didn’t need to be a genius to know that all grandmaster level characters had long since joined great influences where they were worshipped and treated as living buddhas. Wanting to ask them for any sort of help without enough rewards was an impossible matter. And for the current Lin Ming, besides the Magic Cube, Primordius Gate, Primordius Heavenly Palace, and Black Dragon Egg, there was nothing he possessed which would be able to tempt these grandmasters. And Lin Ming would never

barter with those items to begin with.

“Ah, this is really troublesome.”

Lin Ming rubbed his temples. “Nine Stars of the Dao Palace pills, alchemists, as well as methods to train in the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace, I wonder if we’ll be able to find any of these things in Divine Rune City.

Divine Rune City had a history of several hundred million years, and for this entire time they had gathered countless extraordinary individuals. This city was known as a place that could solve any matter in the aspect of pills or inscriptions. No matter how one thought about it, this was the easiest place to find ways to cultivate the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace or ancient pill recipes.

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In Divine Rune City, there was no need to ask where the Divine Runic Master Guild was. It was the most eye-catching as well as the highest construction in the entire city.

“That is the Divine Runic Master Guild.”

Yue Liuxing pointed at a divine pagoda in the center of the city that was several thousand feet high. From any corner of Divine Rune City, one could see this massive pagoda.

As they walked towards the tall pagoda, one could see Divine Lord and Holy Lord realm masters everywhere. Really, in this place where Holy Lords walked everywhere, it made one feel as if Divine Lords were as common as dogs. One would occasionally see those with lower cultivations, but these were all outstanding individuals of their level, all of them young elites. Just like the city guard had said, Divine Rune City only allowed the best to enter.

The descendants of elites, the apprentices of elites, they too tended to be elites. Gradually, Divine Rune City became a place where talented people gathered, like a growing den of dragons.

Thus, in the inner Asura Road, Divine Rune City was a

particularly special existence. Although they weren't a sect, they were a city that was united together. There was no other influence who wished to look to Divine Rune City for trouble.

The streets of Divine Rune City were lined with numerous shops. There were pill stores, weapon stores, inscription stores, and countless others.

Half of the shops here were part of the business complex of the Divine Runic Master Guild. Just the income from these shops alone reached an incalculable number, more than enough to continue supplying the great array formation of Divine Rune City.

Within Divine Rune City, fighting was banned and flying was prohibited. Those who violated the city rules would be severely punished. At the same time, there was an extremely strict hierarchical system in Divine Rune City. Here, high ranked divine runic masters could enjoy all sorts of privileges, and those that offended them would be captured and imprisoned. It was even possible that these divine runic masters would kill those who offended them and no one would stop them or mourn the deaths of those they killed.

Before arriving at Divine Rune Pagoda, Lin Ming could feel strange changes in the heaven and earth origin energy around him.

Lin Ming had already seen many places with rich heaven and earth origin energy. For instance, the heaven and earth origin energy of Divine Dream Heavenly Palace was so rich that it turned to strands of fog; this wasn't strange at all. However, the heaven and earth origin energy around Divine Rune Pagoda wasn't just rich, but the origin energy was faintly restrained by some sorts of Laws, forming an indescribably coordinated beauty. Lin Ming even discovered that as he approached closer to Divine Rune Pagoda, the heaven and earth origin energy around him began to spontaneously form runes, just like inscription runes. This scene shocked Lin Ming. The heaven and earth origin energy here was clearly condensing into inscription runes. From this, one could

infer just what degree of magnificence the inscription technique of this Divine Rune Pagoda held!

Chapter 1545 – Information About the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace

For the surrounding ten miles around Divine Rune Pagoda, there wasn't a single building. The entire area was a massive square, and on this square were all sorts of martial arts vendors who were selling various goods. Some sold pills, some sold weapons, but of course, most of them sold inscriptions and divine runic inscriptions.

All of the stalls were well-organized.

Lin Ming cast out his sense and was able to approximately feel that in this 10 mile square trading market, there were around several tens of thousands of people.

These several tens of thousands of people were all outstanding individuals. Whether it was sellers or buyers, none of them were poor. In such a giant trading market, the daily volume of transactions was mind-boggling.

“This Divine Rune City is quite lively.” Lin Ming sighed.

“Yes, Divine Rune City is the most famous trading hub in the inner Asura Road because there are a massive number of pills, divine runic inscriptions, weapons, and all sorts of other things that are sold here. Many people prefer coming here to buy and sell their goods because of the required qualifications to enter the city. Because of their strict standards, everything sold in Divine Rune City is only the highest quality of goods! In Divine Rune City, there are ten large trading companies and the largest of them belongs to the Divine Runic Master Guild. Every three years, this trading company will hold a large-scale treasure exhibition show. At that time, all sorts of influential forces throughout the Asura Road will bring their treasures here to display and trade amongst each other. There are extremely good treasures that can be found and traded and there are also open sales all over. This treasure exhibition will

continue for a full month, and almost anything you can imagine can be purchased at this exhibition. Not only are there pill and divine runic inscriptions but there is also a great number of ancient pill recipes, ancient inheritances, God Beast flesh and blood, Empyrean spirit treasures, transcendent divine mights, and even relics of True Divinities from times long past.”

Yue Liuxing confidently spoke up from near Lin Ming, a somewhat satisfied tone in her voice. It had to be known that in Divine Rune City, almost 90% of the people were spiritas. In a sense, Divine Rune City was a city of the soul race.

For her own race to have such a bustling city, Yue Liuxing was certainly proud of this.

“Oh? There is this kind of grand meeting?”

Lin Ming was even more satisfied with this Divine Rune City. In such a large volume of transactions there would definitely be some that concerned inheritances and pills of the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace. In ancient times, the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace was a considerably popular human cultivation method, so it wouldn’t be surprising for inheritances to be left behind in ancient runes.

“Of course, even if Divine Rune City has a tremendous amount of daily business there are still Empyreans that come here every year to make transactions of their own. Besides various treasures, you can also inquire into all sorts of information. All of the greatest intelligence networks of the inner Asura Road have branches in Divine Rune City, and some of them are even headquartered here. In short, in Divine Rune City, if you want to buy something, the premise is not whether you can find it here but whether or not you can afford it. The hard currency here is pills or origin energy runes.”

“I understand.” Lin Ming subconsciously traced his spatial ring. In terms of wealth, Lin Ming was once rich. But because of his battle with Tian Mingzi he had been forced to use up a massive

number of nine sun jades to power Primordius Heavenly Palace. Although he was still considerably wealthy, the amount of money he had was completely inadequate to buy pill materials for the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace.

How to obtain a sufficient amount of wealth was one of the problems Lin Ming worried about.

“You just said that there are intelligence networks that sell information?” Lin Ming planned to inquire into information pertaining to the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace. To have pre-prepared information was always better than flying around like a headless fly.

“That’s right. In Divine Rune City, the most famous intelligence network is Heaven’s Secret. Their headquarters are based here and if you have anything you wish to find out, chances are you’ll be able to discover it.”

“I understand, thank you very much. There are indeed some things I wish to ask about so we’ll leave our sound transmission marks with you and part ways for now.”

Hearing Lin Ming say he was leaving, Yue Liuxing was startled for a moment, but there wasn’t anything she could do to stop him. After the two groups exchanged sound transmission marks, Lin Ming then left with Xiao Moxian towards Heaven’s Secret.

Heaven’s Secret was also located at the center of Divine Rune City; it was extremely easy for Lin Ming to find.

The headquarters of Heaven’s Secret wasn’t considered too grand. From the outside it seemed like an antique pavilion that was a bit too old fashioned. There were gardens surrounding it that extended out for several miles.

Lin Ming didn’t need to be a genius to know that the value of land in Divine Rune City came at a sky-high premium. If Heaven’s Secret was able to construct such a luxurious garden in Divine

Rune City, it was a clear indication of their status.

Entering the pavilion, Lin Ming looked up at the entranceway to see a plaque with the words 'Heaven's Secret Pavilion' written on it in large brush strokes.

"Young hero, is there information you would like to inquire about?"

Someone welcomed Lin Ming at the entrance.

This person was only a doorman but their foundation was extremely solid. The way he walked and spoke was steady and solid; he was definitely an outstanding person amongst his peers.

"Mm."

"What would you like to ask about? The information that our Heaven's Secret sells is divided into different ranks and different prices. The higher level the information is, the more valuable it is. At the highest level, the information will come at an astronomical price."

Heaven's Secret Pavilion had a total of seven floors. The lowest floor had the cheapest information, but even though this was only the most ordinary information it still wasn't something that an ordinary Divine Sea powerhouse would be able to handle.

"Nine Stars of the Dao Palace." Lin Ming directly stated his goal for coming here.

"Please enter the fifth level."

The doorman respectfully said. It was clear that this doorman was an extremely knowledgeable person. Just from some casual term that a guest gave out, he was able to judge the approximate value of it. To be able to understand many things from all over the Asura Road as well as the entire 33 Heavens, this wasn't something that an ordinary person could hope to accomplish.

Just this alone made Lin Ming feel a bit more confident about

this Heaven's Secret. If they dared to call themselves the number one intelligence network of Divine Rune City then they really must be amazing.

“The Nine Stars of the Dao Palace is only a fifth-level inquiry; it doesn't seem that it's too exaggerated.” Lin Ming traced his chin. There were still two levels above the fifth. This meant that information about the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace wasn't too difficult to look up. In other words, inheritances of the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace shouldn't be difficult to find either. Of course, it was unknown what the rank of this inheritance would be.

Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian walked up to the fifth level. The one who greeted them was an old man. In front of this old man was a table with many wooden signs placed atop it. These wood signs had words such as, ‘inheritances’, ‘pills’, ‘sects’, ‘cities’, ‘mystic realms’, ‘races’, ‘vicious beasts’, and so forth, each of them pertaining to the matter of information that someone wanted to look up. The person seeking information here would pick up the appropriate wooden sign and would then be directed to the corresponding room.

Lin Ming picked up the wooden sign for inheritances.

Afterwards, a woman in a green dress came and brought Lin Ming to a different room.

After closing, all sound and aura was isolated outwards. It was clear that there was an extremely well-done array formation constructed in this room to prevent anyone from spying inwards.

An old woman in brocaded robes was already sitting down in this room, waiting for Lin Ming.

“What sort of inheritance would you like to inquire about?” The old woman asked in an elderly voice.

“The Nine Stars of the Dao Palace.”

As Lin Ming spoke, an astonished light shined in the old woman's

eyes. She stared at Lin Ming deeply. The Nine Stars of the Dao Palace had long been lost to the rivers of time. She was currently unable to judge what Lin Ming's body transformation cultivation was, but only knew that he was at least at the peak of the Eight Inner Hidden Gates.

For a youth to open the complete Eight Inner Hidden Gates, that wasn't easy at all.

"If you're asking about the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace then you should understand just how difficult it is. It is one of the 33 Heavenly Daos."

"I know." Lin Ming calmly nodded.

"Mm, if you can cultivate the Eight Inner Hidden Gates to this degree, then your understanding of the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace is likely greater than my own. I can only give you some information about inheritances, and as for cultivating, everything will depend on yourself."

The old woman didn't try to urge Lin Ming not to waste his time or effort; she was only responsible for sharing information with guests here. As for the purpose of that information, she didn't ask that either.

"About the inheritance of the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace, there are 42 pieces of information. Each piece of information is ranked differently and the higher the rank, the more expensive it is to find out."

The old woman was very familiar with the information about the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace. All of this information was gathered by Heaven's Secret. Heaven's Secret would gather all sorts of information and then this information would be sorted and classified into different categories and then passed out to the individual responsible for that corresponding category. That person was responsible for memorizing all of this information so that when guests came, there was no need to look up information;

they would have the answers readily available.

“I only want the highest rank. It needs to be at the transcendent divine might rank or above!” Lin Ming gained a bit more confidence in Heaven’s Secret as he heard this number. As he had expected, it wasn’t too difficult to look up information on inheritances of the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace.

“Transcendent divine might? It seems you have a big appetite!” The old woman chuckled. “But, those that would enter my Heaven’s Secret Headquarters to inquire about information would have to have at least that much. When it comes to low rank cultivation methods, we simply don’t bother recording them at all. If you are looking for transcendent divine mights, there is indeed one, but it isn’t complete at all. There are three pieces of information, each one costing 350 million origin energy runes. If you want, I can sell you all three for a billion. Also, we only provide information. Our information doesn’t mean that you will be successful in your quest. But, what you should know is that for the price we charge, we will not provide any false information to you. If you ultimately cannot find what you are looking for then the problem lies with you.”

The old woman calmly said. This expensive price left Lin Ming secretly flabbergasted.

Origin energy runes were a currency unique to the Asura Road. They could be manufactured by having blank runes absorb heaven and earth origin energy. There were many strong martial artists, who had no other way of earning money, and who would spend a massive amount of time to create these origin energy runes and then use them to purchase goods.

In the Asura Road, every business that was connected to the Asura Road Heavenly Dao had to use origin energy runes. Lin Ming suspected that these origin energy runes were the source for how the Heavenly Dao rules revolved in the Asura Road, and thus how they became the hard currency for this land.

A billion origin energy runes were equal to 10 trillion violet sun stones. This was far more expensive than the Boundless World Pill that Lin Ming had spent nearly all his wealth buying in the past, and this was only for information about a transcendent divine might. As for whether or not he could rely on this information to obtain a transcendent divine might, that was hard to say.

This high price was simply because a transcendent divine might was far too precious. In the Divine Realm, it was considered wonderful if a World King Holy Land could have even an incomplete transcendent divine might. If it weren't for the fact that the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace received such little attention then this price might be even higher.

“I only have nine sun jades.” Lin Ming said.

“We accept nine sun jades. If you wish to pay in nine sun jades then that will be 11 of them.”

Lin Ming pulled out 11 nine sun jades. The old woman picked them up and appraised their purity before nodding with satisfaction. Those that could use nine sun jades as currency were clearly not poor, because these were things created by human Emphyreans.

The old woman accepted the nine sun jades and then took out a blank white jade. She poured her divine sense into it and soon wrote down all the necessary information.

Then, she gave this jade slip to Lin Ming. “The information is in here. Take a look.”

“Thank you.” Lin Ming took the jade slip and swept through it with his divine sense. But as he saw the contents, he was left startled.

“This... how is this possible... something like this could happen?”

Chapter 1546 – Riddle of the Cultivation Method

In the jade slip, there were three pieces of information recorded down about transcendent divine mights of the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace.

The first piece of information came from 30 years ago. The Divine Taboo Wasteland was a dangerous death zone. It was said that it was a land left behind by a great body transformation emperor. And, this great body transformation emperor was a human.

In the Divine Taboo Wasteland, someone had once found a remnant of a transcendent divine might related to the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace. However, they disappeared afterwards and their whereabouts were currently unknown.

The second piece of information came from 40 years ago. In the Stormy Sea, there were a number of islands that seemed to flit in and out of existence. One of these islands held an ancient ruin that concerned the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace, and there were said to be inheritances left behind by powerhouses that once practiced the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace. However, the location of this island was filled with uncertainties, and many people even thought it was nothing more than a mirage. A great number of powerhouses had gone to the Stormy Sea to seek out some clues of this island, but they all failed. Some people even went missing and no one knew whether they had died or not.

The third piece of information was also the simplest. The first two pieces of information were about mystic realm danger zones. Wanting to find transcendent divine mights of the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace from those places was as dangerous as ascending to the heavens, and if there were any mistakes at all, one could even lose their life.

But, the third piece of information was more concrete.

In the inner Asura Road, there was an assassin organization known as Heaven's Net. This Heaven's Net had a branch division in Divine Rune City and the third leader of Heaven's Net was a human. This person dual cultivated in body and energy and trained in a remnant transcendent divine might of the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace. If one was willing to pay a high enough price, they could borrow it for a look!

But, what truly shocked Lin Ming was that the remnant transcendent divine might that the third leader of this Heaven's Net assassin organization possessed was... the Celestial Tyrant Manual!

This startled Lin Ming a great deal. Was there such a coincidence in this world? He himself possessed the Eight Inner Hidden Gates section of the Celestial Tyrant Manual, and just by casually inquiring at Heaven's Secret, he would find information about the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace section of the Celestial Tyrant Manual?

Could the Celestial Tyrant Manual have been a common body transformation law formula of ancient times, and thus there were many copies of it?

As soon as this thought appeared in Lin Ming's mind he shot it down. He didn't know what level of cultivation method the Celestial Tyrant Manual was, but he guessed that it was a transcendent divine might. And now, Heaven's Secret also recognized it as a transcendent divine might. Without a doubt, this was the most likely situation.

If the Celestial Tyrant Manual were indeed a transcendent divine might, then wanting to make another copy of it was nearly impossible. To do so, one needed to have reached large success in cultivating the Celestial Tyrant Manual, and the one who did so would be a body transformation Empyrean!

Many transcendent divine might manuals were singularly unique; this showed just how precious they were.

Moreover, the Celestial Tyrant Manual that Lin Ming had was found in an ancient ruin along with the Magic Cube. If there was an inheritance cultivation method that could be found together with the Magic Cube and was related to the Magic Cube, then it definitely wouldn't be something common!

“My Celestial Tyrant Manual was obtained by the Verdant Feather World King, and at the time, he only managed to obtain the section about the Eight Inner Hidden Gates. If there is only one copy of the Celestial Tyrant Manual, then... does the Celestial Tyrant Manual that the third leader of Heaven's Net possesses make a set with mine? This is too coincidental... how could it be such a coincidence?”

Lin Ming felt this all to be unbelievable.

It had to be known that the Magic Cube was discovered in the Divine Realm. But in this Asura Road that was a completely separate universe from the Divine Realm, he actually managed to find news about the other half of the Celestial Tyrant Manual. How could he not be surprised?

Anomalies like this that were out of the ordinary were always suspicious. Lin Ming couldn't help but think there was some unknown secret.

But no matter what, Lin Ming decided to meet this Heaven's Net leader to see where the Celestial Tyrant Manual in their hands had come from.

“So, these three pieces of information, do they satisfy you?”

The old woman faintly said. She had noticed the shock on Lin Ming's face as he read through the jade slip. But, she didn't ask further because it wasn't her concern at all. She was only here to provide information and receive payment.

“I’m satisfied.”

Lin Ming believed that the information coming from Heaven’s Secret was true. If they were able to stand tall in Divine Rune City where there were so many powerhouses and also become the largest intelligence network in this city, then it would have been impossible to reach these heights by swindling their way here. Moreover, the Celestial Tyrant Manual indeed existed.

“But, I want to ask something. How can I contact this Heaven’s Net third leader?” Lin Ming guessed that a behind the scenes leader of an assassin organization was mostly a mysterious figure. Wanting to make contact with him wouldn’t be easy at all.

The old woman said, “Consider this information a free gift to you. Wanting to make contact with the Heaven’s Net third leader is extremely difficult and all I know is that this person’s code name is Blood Moon. This person’s whereabouts are all a mystery, and if you are thinking about joining Heaven’s Net to find them then you will be wasting your time. This is because Heaven’s Net doesn’t accept new members like yourself; most of the people in their ranks start out as extremely talented children that they take in. These people have all grown up in Heaven’s Net and have been trained in that hellish environment, making all of them loyal and devoted to their organization!”

Lin Ming wasn’t surprised by this at all. An assassin organization particularly focused on the loyalty and confidentiality of their members. Many of them wore masks for their entire lives and even their team members wouldn’t know their true appearance or name, only knowing them by their code name.

Assassin organizations most loved looking for orphans and children that were extremely good at stealing and pickpocketing. By raising these people from their childhood and training them into sublime killers, these people would be utterly loyal to the organization and their backgrounds would also be clean.

“Senior, you said that most of the people from Heaven’s Net were raised since childhood, but what about the rest?”

The old woman said, “The rest have either been thoroughly inspected by Heaven’s Net for a long time or they have been guaranteed by extremely important individuals of Heaven’s Net. These types of people are normally extremely talented individuals, for instance, divine runic masters or alchemists! No matter how perfect the training system of Heaven’s Net is, it is impossible for them to train divine runic grandmasters or alchemist grandmasters. Otherwise, there would be no need for an existence like the Divine Runic Master Guild. However, as an assassin organization, it is impossible for them to lack talented individuals in those aspects, thus they can only take in divine runic masters, alchemists, and refiners after they have been trained. If you wanted to make contact with Heaven’s Net’s third leader, then being introduced by divine runic masters or alchemists is the best way to go about it. This is because the Heaven’s Net third leader has a high need of pills and he is also needing people to refine them. If you are a divine runic grandmaster or grandmaster alchemist then you won’t even need to look for him; he will look for you.”

The old woman slowly said. Since Blood Moon dual cultivated in body and energy he certainly needed pills. Let alone Blood Moon, even someone like Lin Ming who experienced lucky chance after lucky chance needed pills and materials to the point of suffocating from them.

Now, Lin Ming had finished swallowing all God Beast parts he had, had finished swallowing the Nine Star Heaven Pill, had finished swallowing the Grandmist Spirit Bead Essence, and had even absorbed Xiao Moxian’s primordial yin blood to bring himself into harmony. If he wanted to continue training then he would really be nothing but a destitute beggar with nothing to his name.

“Senior, do you think I am an alchemist or something?” Lin Ming

ruefully smiled.

“That’s not my problem. If you know any grandmaster alchemists or divine runic grandmasters then you can have them introduce you. I’ve already provided you with the method on how to make contact, so what else do you have to ask me?”

“Nothing...” Lin Ming helplessly said. Out of all the people this person could be, they had to be a leader of an assassin organization. This type of person was usually secretive in their movements, a divine dragon that never showed their face, so where would he begin looking for them?

“Alright. If you have any other information you wish to inquire into then feel free to visit.”

The old woman expressionlessly saw her guests out. Like this, Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian left Heaven’s Secret Pavilion.

“Lin Ming, what was in that jade slip that surprised you so much? And you even have to ask about an assassin organization?”

Xiao Moxian asked Lin Ming as soon as they left. Lin Ming answered without hiding anything from her. After Xiao Moxian heard this she pressed her eyebrows together and said, “Is it that strange? Reasonably speaking, your Celestial Tyrant Manual should be a singularly unique copy. If so, then the Celestial Tyrant Manual that Blood Moon possesses should have been two parts of a whole to the one that you have. It’s only that they were separated and they were separated so long ago. The first half was left in an ancient ruin within the Divine Realm and the second half came all the way to the Asura Road... I wonder how this is related?”

“I think it’s strange too. It seems there is some mystery to this code name Blood Moon.”

Lin Ming couldn’t figure out what the reason was. The only way he would be able to find out the truth was if he met Blood Moon in the future.

The truth was that what Lin Ming wanted to know the most was how the Celestial Tyrant Manual was related to the Magic Cube. Was it just a coincidence that the first half of it was found together with the Magic Cube?

Unfortunately, the Verdant Feather World King had died long ago, so this mystery was hard to solve.

If he could see the second half of the Celestial Tyrant Manual, would he be able to find some clues about the Magic Cube?

This was something that Lin Ming deeply cared about, even more so than the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace cultivation method itself.

After all, the Magic Cube was Lin Ming's most important treasure. His initial rise to fame had relied upon the Magic Cube, and as Lin Ming stepped into the Divine Lord realm and his cultivation continued to increase, he would be able to control more and more strength of the Magic Cube. The Magic Cube would eventually become Lin Ming's most powerful magic tool!

In the future, he might need to use the Magic Cube to kill his enemies. In the future great calamity of humanity, the Magic Cube would become one of Lin Ming's greatest strengths. Any secret regarding the Magic Cube was extremely important to him!

"What do you plan on doing?" Xiao Moxian shrugged. "Have you thought about becoming a divine runic master? You should be able to meet this third leader like that, right? Don't you have some experience with inscription technique? But, it does seem that the Asura Road's inscription technique is far more profound than that of the Divine Realm, and they have even combined it with god runes."

"How could I possibly do that..." Lin Ming ruefully smiled, "My inscription technique is too shameful to even show others, much less combine with god runes. How could it be that easy..."

As Lin Ming spoke to here, he immediately perked up.

Inscription technique combined with god runes...

God runes... that's right!

A brilliant light flashed in Lin Ming's mind. The god runes of the Asura Road could be obtained by challengers after they completed certain tasks; they were in a sense traces of the Great Dao that corresponded to the Heavenly Dao of the Asura Road! They were divided into many different grades; for instance, silver, gold, blue soul, zenith black... and so forth!

Once one collected enough god runes then they could open the final trial of the Asura Road.

As for divine runic inscriptions, they were able to use the god runes of the Asura Road in inscription technique, forming the divine runic arts.

"I have successfully obtained and studied the Asura Sutra First Volume, and I understand the Asura Road Heavenly Dao... then, god runes... perhaps I might be able to draw up one myself?"

As this crazy thought began to grow within Lin Ming's mind, he gained unprecedented clarity of his path.

If he could become a divine runic master then not only would he be able to see the third leader of Heaven's Net, but it would be a great help to paving his future path to the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace!

Chapter 1547 – Divine Runic Masters Guild

Rather than asking others, it was better to ask himself. If Lin Ming wanted to walk down the path of the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace, his dependence on pills was far too great. And, in order to make pills for the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace, each material needed was rarer than the last. Moreover, to refine them was extremely difficult, something that would be nearly impossible for anyone that wasn't a grandmaster alchemist.

But, asking a grandmaster alchemist for help wasn't easy to begin with. In addition to that, the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace often used ancient pill recipes, the kind that alchemists almost never refined. Even if they did, they would need to spend some time familiarizing themselves with the process. This only added another level of difficulty and a grandmaster alchemist might not be willing to waste so much time. Thus, there was no choice that would be as convenient as Lin Ming's own alchemy ability.

"Divine runic master... alchemist... perhaps I really need to consider learning them..."

Lin Ming thought to himself. Then, at this time, a flame lit up in front of him. It was a sound transmitting talisman sending a message from Yue Liuxing.

The general gist of it was that she had completed the divine runic arts assessment with her little brother.

Yue Liuxing had been evaluated as a fourth grade inscription master, divine runic arts apprentice.

Yue Qifeng had been evaluated as a third grade inscription master, divine runic arts apprentice.

Yue Liuxing's voice in the sound transmitting talisman was one of joy and happiness; she was clearly more than satisfied with her results. Moreover, they had both been evaluated as possessing

extremely high levels of talent and were fortunate enough to be received as disciples by an Elder of the Divine Runic Masters Guild. Even though they were only ordinary disciples now, if they performed their duties well they had a chance of rising to be direct disciples in the future and possibly even being the ones to inherit the legacy of that Elder.

At that time, Yue Liuxing and Yue Qifeng would both become characters that could wield power as they pleased, mighty and unapproachable!

At the end of the message, Yue Liuxing invited Lin Ming to come and take a look at the Divine Runic Masters Guild.

This was just what Lin Ming wanted to do. He wanted to see what sort of scene the Divine Runic Masters Guild was like.

The tall pagoda where the Divine Runic Masters Guild was located was filled year round with the lingering fragrance of incense and medicine. In the skies around the pagoda, strange god runes appeared from time to time. Many martial artists that came to Divine Rune City would often come here for sightseeing and be amazed by the wondrous scenes all around them.

As Lin Ming arrived at Divine Rune Pagoda, he saw a line of martial artists all waiting to take the assessment. These people were all uncommon individuals, and in Lin Ming's eyes, many of them could be considered heroic young elites. For Lin Ming to judge someone as a heroic young elite, they had to at least have the ability to stand tall in an ordinary World King Holy Land.

“What are they doing?”

Lin Ming could see that the content of the tests these young martial artists were taking was similar to the Seven Profound Martial House's Ten Thousand Killing Array. They would need to enter the illusory magic array and then fight their way through to assess their strength.

“Brother Lin, over here!”

The voice of a young girl suddenly called out. Lin Ming turned to see that the one shouting to him was Yue Liuxing. She beckoned to Lin Ming from the crowd, having Lin Ming walk over.

Beside Yue Liuxing was Yue Qifeng, as well as another spiritas man.

This spiritas man had a middle Divine Lord realm cultivation. Lin Ming guessed that he wasn't too old; for him to have this cultivation at his current age was quite rare.

“Let me introduce you, this is my senior-apprentice brother, fifth grade inscription master, third grade divine runic master Luo Yubai, Senior-apprentice Brother Liu. Senior-apprentice Brother Liu is the most magnificent direct disciple beneath my master and just completed his test to become a third grade divine runic master last year!”

Yue Liuxing clearly held deep admiration in her eyes as she introduced Lin Ming to this person. In particular, when she mentioned the words ‘direct disciple’ and ‘third grade divine runic master’, her eyes shined particularly bright as if she couldn't conceal the envy and respect within her.

In Divine Rune City, inscription masters were divided into 12 grades and divine runic masters were divided into nine grades. It wasn't hard to rise in grade as an inscription master, but wanting to rise in grade as a divine runic master was far, far too hard.

In the inner Asura Road, there were numerous twelfth grade inscription masters, but there wasn't a single ninth grade divine runic master.

In fact, eighth grade divine runic masters were nearly myths unto themselves. As for ninth grade divine runic masters, they had only existed in ancient times several billion years ago; to divine runic masters, a ninth grade divine runic master was an existence

close to that of god.

It was because of this extremely difficult grading system that Yue Liuxing was filled with admiration and yearning towards the term 'third grade divine runic master'. A third grade divine runic master was high enough to receive a courteous reception from almost any large influence. This was particularly true for someone like Luo Yubai. With his extremely high talent, his future was limitless; he might even become a sixth grade divine runic master in the future. This meant that many Great World Kings would be respectful when seeing Luo Yubai, treating him with the same dignity that they reserved for their descendants.

Lin Ming glanced over Luo Yubai. This person was indeed outstanding. From looks, he seemed to be around 23-24 years old. He was tall and stood straight with an imposing and immaculate appearance. His forehead was wide and even, and he had the aura of a natural born ruler.

On his right eye was a small round lens, something that resembled a monocle. In fact, this was a common magic tool that divine runic masters used and was specifically for analyzing the structure of divine runes. He wore robes of black and white, like ink on water. The base of his clothes were white, and black ink traced lines along them. These lines were designs of divine runic inscriptions and looked natural and pleasing.

“Hello.”

Lin Ming politely greeted. Luo Yubai glanced at Lin Ming without any expression. Then, Lin Ming felt a sudden divine sense wash over his body as if it wanted to thrust into his spiritual sea and inner world, completely understanding him!

Lin Ming's mind chilled. He immediately summoned a little power from the Magic Cube, and in addition to the Divine Mist Heart Mantra that he studied, he concealed his inner world and spiritual sea, making it so that Luo Yubai only saw faint white

mirages.

With Luo Yubai's cultivation, it was impossible for him to see through any secrets within Lin Ming. But, no one liked being probed by others, and this was the most basic form of politeness between martial artists.

Luo Yubai certainly knew this. But, as a divine runic master and also a spiritus, he was particularly skilled in the aspect of sense. In any normal circumstances, it was impossible for human martial artists of the same step to discover that he was probing them, much less Lin Ming who was at a much lower cultivation boundary.

Upon discovering that there wasn't anything special about Lin Ming, Luo Yubai proceeded to ignore him. Since Lin Ming was a human, this made it so that Luo Yubai had fundamentally no interest in exchanging any pleasantries with him.

He pushed up the monocle on his eye and faintly said to Yue Liuxing, "These two are your friends?"

"Y-yes."

Yue Liuxing was a bit embarrassed as she saw the lack of expression on Luo Yubai's face.

"Mm... later, don't bring irrelevant people to the Divine Runic Masters Guild. We'll consider it fine just this once."

Luo Yubai used a sound transmission to speak and didn't say it out loud. Then, he turned and left.

But, his expression and gestures demonstrated a clear sense of superiority that caused Xiao Moxian's eyes to twitch. She could approximately guess what Luo Yubai had said to Yue Liuxing, otherwise there was no way she would look so awkward.

"Just who does he think he is!" Xiao Moxian pouted. Yue Liuxing was frozen where she was, her face filled with an apologetic expression.

Lin Ming didn't care about this at all. He indifferently said, "This person is an outstanding young elite of the Divine Runic Masters Guild and has an inborn sense of superiority. Unless you are an equally outstanding character it is hard to enter his view."

Luo Yubai's cold response hadn't surprised Lin Ming at all. This was because Yue Liuxing's status was insignificant to begin with; she was considered amongst the lowest echelons of the Divine Runic Masters Guild. As for the friends she invited over, they weren't divine runic masters nor were they part of the soul race, and their cultivations were only at the peak of the early Divine Lord realm, so who would bother with seeing them?

"Imagine there is a successor of a royal family. One day, a son of a branch family with no status at all decides to invite his own common city friends for a visit. In the eyes of the world, it is impossible for that successor to treat those common city friends with any sense respect at all; in fact, that successor is likely disinclined to meet with them to begin with, because those common city friends have no value in his eyes. Currently, this other person views us in the same way."

Lin Ming's words were all spoken with a true essence sound transmission. Xiao Moxian was still miffed after hearing this. "What a snobby little bastard. I can beat up 10 of these people and still not be satisfied!"

"It should be more than 10." Lin Ming smiled. "But in terms of inscription technique, he can defeat me 100 to 1 I believe."

Lin Ming self-deprecatingly said. These words were not modesty; they were the truth.

Xiao Moxian also worried a little for Lin Ming after hearing this. "Then how do you plan on learning? Learning these sorts of things will probably require a great deal of time."

"Yes, but I don't plan on taking a conventional approach; I have other methods available to me. I've never had much contact with

the Divine Runic Arts so it's impossible for me to judge how much time it will take, but I believe that my speed of learning the divine runic arts will be at least 100 times faster than anyone else's."

Lin Ming confidently said. Xiao Moxian was left stricken – 100 times?

Something that would take someone else a hundred years to learn, Lin Ming could learn in a single year?

"Miss Yue, about how old is this Senior-apprentice Brother Luo of yours?" Lin Ming only cared about how many years Luo Yubai had spent to become a third grade divine runic master.

Yue Liuxing thought about it for a while, "He is over 400 years old..."

"Over 400 years old... could he have used 400 years to learn the divine runic arts?" Lin Ming frowned. Although he was confident that he could quickly learn the divine runic arts, taking 400 years to become a third grade divine runic master seemed a bit too much.

"How could it be so long? Senior-apprentice Brother Luo first started studying the divine runic arts when he reached the Divine Lord realm, so he has probably studied the divine runic arts for around 70-80 years. Studying the divine runic arts requires a tremendous amount of time and you also need a ridiculously solid soul force as a support. Many martial artists first cultivate the martial path first before studying the divine runic arts. Me and my little brother are also the same, that is why we are only divine runic art apprentices right now. There is still a long road ahead of us and we will continue to primarily focus on cultivating."

"So that's how it is!"

Lin Ming finally understood. When a martial artist was young, that was the prime time in their life to cultivate martial arts. From their teenage years to when they were several dozen years old,

martial artists were in a constant race against time. The higher their cultivation achievements were in their youth, the more life potential they could dig out in the future, meaning that their future achievements would also be greater. If they placed too much time and energy in learning the divine runic arts, then the losses would simply outweigh the gains.

“70-80 years to become a third grade divine runic master, that is also acceptable.”

Lin Ming was constantly calculating the time he needed to learn the divine runic arts.

If a divine runic arts talent like Luo Yubai needed 70-80 years to become a third grade divine runic master, then if he could increase this speed by 100 times, Lin Ming could reach the same level in maybe 10 months.

Of course, a third grade divine runic master was far from reaching Lin Ming's requirements. He needed to become a divine runic grandmaster and also minor in alchemy. Only like this would he be able to refine the pills needed for the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace.

Chapter 1548 – Broken Jade

After entering the Divine Runic Masters Guild, the medicinal fragrance was much richer. If an ordinary pill were placed in the Divine Runic Masters Guild for a long time, then it would soak in the medicinal fragrance and become a medicinal pill. If a mortal were to breathe in this fragrance then their mind would become sharper and they would become the number one scholar of their country. If a martial artist lived here year round it would also be beneficial to their cultivation.

The grounds of the Divine Runic Masters Guild, their walls, their stone tables and stone benches, and even their eating utensils were engraved with runes. These runes not only served decorative purposes but they were themselves array formations that could do various things such as gathering origin energy or strengthening the use of tools.

“Miss Yue, I saw some people lining up outside the Divine Runic Masters Guild waiting for some test, just what are they testing?” Lin Ming asked as he followed behind Yue Liuxing.

“It seems that the Divine Runic Masters Guild is looking to recruit guards. Those people have all come to apply.” Yue Liuxing casually said. Lin Ming was dumbfounded upon hearing this. Just for recruiting guards, so many people had come, and these people were all outstanding young elites!

However, upon thinking about it further, this was also within reason. Not only was it easy to come into contact with great individuals within the Divine Runic Masters Guild, but one could also obtain high wages. Just the medicinal fragrance within the Divine Rune Pagoda would be greatly beneficial to their cultivation if they could inhale it daily.

Lin Ming continued following Yue Liuxing through a number of winding corridors until they reached a broad hall.

Within this grand hall, there were several neatly arranged rows of blue stone counters. These counters all had various alchemy and inscription tools on them.

Standing behind some of these counters were young martial artists. These martial artists wore robes and were clearly busying themselves with working at the counters. A few old men sat on the sidelines, judging their work while they sipped on some tea and also occasionally gave pointers. It was clear that they were guiding their apprentices.

“Sir Lin, take a look. The one in a black and white robe is a divine runic master and the one in a blue and red robe is an alchemist. The badges on their chest represent their grade; the more stripes there are, the higher their grade is.

In Divine Rune City, alchemists and divine runic masters were separate. Although there were a massive number of alchemists in the Divine Runic Masters Guild, the reason that this organization was named by its divine runic masters was because their status was higher than alchemists’!

Lin Ming watched with his own eyes as a disciple completed a divine runic symbol and then placed it on a rock. The divine runic symbol immediately melted into the rock, fusing with it.

Then, this hard rock shimmered with a brilliant light. After the light died down, it still glowed with a golden light, because it had actually turned into gold!

This was truly turning stone into gold!

Turning stone into gold was an immortal skill that mortals dreamed of. However, this was a useless ability to martial artists, because to them, gold was no different from iron.

But, if someone were to tell Lin Ming to turn stone into gold just by touching it then that wouldn’t be something he could do.

Let alone Lin Ming, not even a Great World King could do this. In

order to accomplish this miracle, one needed to be at least an Empyrean!

This was because turning stone into gold involved changing the structure of matter, something that was part of the Heavenly Dao Laws. In truth, changing the structure of matter was violating the Heavenly Dao Laws. Although it wasn't the same as rebelling against the heavens, it was similar. If one wasn't an Empyrean or hadn't crossed heavenly tribulation then it was impossible to do this.

But in front of Lin Ming, a simple divine runic art had accomplished this. This was because in the Asura Road, divine runic arts represented the Heavenly Dao, the will of god. Because of this, people changed this skill from inscription technique to the divine runic arts.

After witnessing a divine runic master turn stone into gold, Lin Ming saw another divine runic master place a divine runic symbol into a basin of water. This water became increasingly thick, and before long, it had turned into oil.

And, what startled Lin Ming the most was a middle-aged divine runic master with three stripes on his badge placing a divine runic symbol on a frog. This frog then transformed into a mouse!

Although this wasn't particularly useful to a martial artist, this was actually an extraordinary ability!

For a single divine runic symbol to turn stone into gold, turn water into oil, and even change the shape of a life form and turn a frog into a mouse, this was almost the same as the divine ability of creation!

"The legendary Asura Road is said to be created by the Asura Road Master. But, the title of the Asura Road Master is not a True Divinity, but the Creator. The Asura Sutra that he created is the cultivation method to control the power of divine creation and create an entire world. If one mastered the Asura Sutra, then it

might really be possible to create an entirely new world. Unfortunately, I understand far too little about the Asura Sutra.”

Lin Ming sighed deeply. He was far too young, with less than 60 years of cultivation. There was a long road ahead of him.

“If one reached the highest levels of the divine runic arts, could one change grass into peak heavenly materials? Or change stones into nine sun jades? If so, then to an eighth or ninth grade divine runic master, wealth has no meaning at all.”

Of course, Lin Ming was just thinking about this. He didn’t doubt that wanting to transform something into top medicinal materials would require an absurdly high grade of divine runic symbol; it wouldn’t be easy at all to draw up.

As Lin Ming was thinking, he soon saw another divine runic master place a divine runic symbol onto a hoe. This hoe was an ordinary hoe used by mortal farmers on their farm; it was indeed stained with rust and time. But after this divine runic symbol was placed on it, the entire hoe shined with a divine light. Although its shape didn’t change, the quality of this hoe had directly climbed up to a low-grade saint artifact!

The rust fell off, revealing a pitch black edge that shined with a cold light. Even the handle gained a strange elasticity that allowed one to bend it like a moon, and one could even use it to save strength and shatter a pillar of divine steel. In Lin Ming’s eyes, this handle would make an excellent spear shaft.

“This is truly heaven-defying!”

As Lin Ming sighed with praise, he also understood that divine runic arts were limited to the Asura Road. Once one left the Asura Road, it would be impossible to use the divine runic arts because god runes did not exist outside of the Asura Road.

The only exception would be if one could thoroughly pass the final test of the Asura Road and control the Laws of the Asura Road

for one's own use, instead of simply following them.

Lin Ming could faintly feel that the Asura Road Master had in truth formed his own independent Heavenly Dao, and although this Heavenly Dao stood outside of the 33 Heavenly Daos, it still stood on equal footing with them!

To be able to create his own Heavenly Dao Laws, this sort of method was truly heart-shaking to hear!

Without a doubt, after one's divine runic arts reached this level, even if there was a poor quality pill, if one were to place a high grade divine runic symbol on it, it would become something far more profound. This was not something that the medicinal inscription symbols that Lin Ming learnt before could hope to compare with.

After passing through this hall, Lin Ming and the others arrived at a side hall of the Divine Runic Masters guild.

This side hall was considerably large; it was the trade area of the Divine Runic Masters Guild.

This trade area was completely different from the square around Divine Rune Pagoda. In the Divine Rune Pagoda square, there were all sorts of sounds, cries and bargaining noises, just like a busy mortal market fair.

But here, everything was quiet. The stall vendors lazily sat in their chairs. They might have been meditating or resting, as if these stalls had nothing to do with them at all.

These vendors were all divine runic masters or alchemists of the Divine Runic Masters Guild!

Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian approached a stall. The stall vendor reluctantly opened one eye to sweep over Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian, then, he returned to meditating as if he hadn't seen them at all.

This was because to the stall vendor, Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian

didn't resemble customers at all. They were as young as little babies, their cultivations weren't high, and they weren't divine runic masters or alchemists, so what could they possibly be doing here except taking a look? This stall vendor simply couldn't be bothered with attending to these customers who were only interested in window shopping.

“What sort of service is this!” Xiao Moxian said, a bit indignantly. Ever since coming to the Divine Runic Masters Guild she had been continuously ignored.

First was that Luo Yubai who seemed to have his eyes on the top of his head. She wished that she could maliciously stomp on him as revenge.

Now it was this old geezer, sitting there motionlessly like he was some almighty Buddha; how could Xiao Moxian be happy with this?

“Hey you, how do we buy these medicines?”

Xiao Moxian pointed towards a withered yellow root that looked like a radish and asked about this common-looking herb. She asked about this medicinal herb because she could feel a rich heaven and earth origin energy emanating from it; it clearly wasn't ordinary.

The divine runic master lazily opened an eye, glancing at Xiao Moxian from between the slits of his eyelids. He lightly said, “Your eyesight is alright, but you don't even know the name of this medicinal herb. You aren't a customer at all, but you're simply curious about all of this. If you're just going to waste my time, then don't bother disturbing me.”

After being exposed by the divine runic master, Xiao Moxian squawked out loud, nearly choking on herself. Lin Ming smiled, saying, “Although we don't understand the divine runic arts, buying good materials is always useful. I also intend to dabble in the divine runic arts in the future, so I ask Senior to kindly inform us of the price...”

With Lin Ming's Divine Lord boundary cultivation, he was at the perfect time to begin learning the divine runic arts. But to this old divine runic master, Lin Ming clearly didn't have any chance of learning anything because he was a human.

He looked at Lin Ming with an annoyed look, as if he didn't want Lin Ming to continue bothering him. Then, he directly listed off the names of several materials as well as the price of the medicinal herb.

This time, Lin Ming was left dumbfounded. He had never heard of these materials before, and according to the old man, he simply didn't accept origin energy runes. Rather, he wanted to barter, the most primitive form of trade.

Realizing this, Lin Ming suddenly became aware. These vendors all held extremely high positions and didn't lack nine sun jades or origin energy runes. What they lacked were materials and rare god runes, or superior top grade pill furnaces for alchemy, or even top grade pens for drawing up divine runic symbols.

Thus, these vendors were mostly interested in bartering. They had no interest in origin energy runes because there were things that couldn't be purchased with origin energy runes.

Lin Ming was able to confirm that he couldn't afford anything here. He hadn't even heard of these materials before, so what was there to buy?

Lin Ming had no choice but to withdraw. The divine runic master sighed, giving off an expression that he had long expected this. Then, he closed his eyes and returned to his meditation. This caused Xiao Moxian to be even more disgruntled.

"Let's go." Lin Ming said. The reason he came to the Divine Runic Masters Guild was too see just what the divine runic arts were. Now that he had accomplished his goal, he could leave. All that remained was to learn the divine runic arts.

However, just as Lin Ming was about to leave, he suddenly stopped where he was, no longer leaving. His eyes locked onto a table covered with random objects in front of the old divine runic master. Among these random items was a common-looking piece of broken jade, but as Lin Ming saw this jade, he was shocked!

Chapter 1549 – Buying Treasures

There were too many scattered items in front of the old divine runic master's stall. It was like he was too lazy to sort these things out and let them pile up in a messy bunch.

Among these random items was a common piece of broken jade that was hidden by some other things. If it weren't for Lin Ming's extraordinary eyesight and a faintly familiar aura that he felt from this broken jade, then he would never have noticed it at all.

Lin Ming silently squatted down in front of the old divine runic master's stall, quietly probing that broken jade.

After a short period of time, he was able to confirm that he wasn't mistaken.

Normally, someone old and well taught like this old divine runic master vendor would have a vast amount of experience and it should have been impossible for Lin Ming to find any hidden gems in his trove of random items. But, this broken jade was too special. Besides Lin Ming, there was no one else who would have sensed anything special about it.

Although this broken jade was only an inch in size and was extremely fragmented, there were faint lines on its surface. These lines revealed an aura, one that was the exact same as the emperor jade that Lin Ming had obtained from the Wheel of Destiny!

When Lin Ming first entered the Asura Road, he had obtained the emperor jade. By relying on it, he had been able to enter the Great Desolate God Trove hidden in the depths of the God Burying Ridge. In God Burying Ridge, the emperor jade had allowed Lin Ming to repeatedly overcome danger after danger, saving his life countless times!

“Could the Asura Road Master have left more than one piece of emperor jade? Was there a pair, or even more than a pair?”

Lin Ming didn't know why this emperor jade was broken. This little piece wasn't even a quarter of the size of a complete emperor jade, and it was also missing the most essential lines of an emperor jade. This would make perceiving anything from it nearly impossible.

This divine runic master must have accidentally obtained this broken jade from somewhere, and although he could faintly feel that it was uncommon, he couldn't figure out just what it was. He likely thought it was only a fragment of an ancient top magic weapon, and thus he had brought it out to sell.

Lin Ming began to leisurely look over every other item in the stall to prevent the old divine runic master from discovering his true purpose.

At this time, the divine runic master vendor opened his eyes, saying, "You aren't a divine runic master and you also don't understand the materials that I have, and yet you still linger around here. Have you taken a fancy to my items? Or perhaps you think you found some treasure amongst my random goods that you would like to take from me?"

As the old divine runic master spoke these words, Lin Ming felt his heart chill. This old geezer, he was far too vigilant.

However, Lin Ming's behavior really couldn't be explained. What others wanted, Lin Ming didn't have, and as for the items that were placed out, Lin Ming had no idea what they were. If he continued to wander around here and look about, then that simply couldn't be justified.

Lin Ming's thoughts turned and he immediately responded, "Senior shouldn't say that. Although this junior is nothing but an amateur layman when it comes to the divine runic arts and I also don't have any materials that Senior wants, I have still decided to become a divine runic master in the future. I will eventually need to understand what these things are, and there are always some

things that I have which Senior might need. For instance... god runes!”

The god runes in the Asura Road were obtained through completing missions. Lin Ming had many rare blue soul runes as well as a few zenith black runes with him.

A divine runic master’s divine runic arts needed rare god runes. Only by combining these god runes with inscription did that form the divine runic arts.

Lin Ming guessed that divine runic masters were normally busy with their own matters every day so they almost never had time to go out in the greater Asura Road and complete missions. Thus, in order to obtain rare god runes they would trade for them here. This was why he thought of exchanging some treasures with god runes.

“You want to become a divine runic master? Hehe...” The divine runic master vendor chuckled. Although hadn’t done any evaluations, his meaning was obvious. In his opinion, a human wanting to become a divine runic master was no different from a toad wanting to eat swan meat.

However, the divine runic master vendor was indeed interested in Lin Ming’s god runes. He asked, “What god runes do you have? Let’s take a look!”

Lin Ming didn’t take out his god runes just yet. If this vendor saw that he had so many rare god runes then he might ask for a ridiculous price.

Lin Ming said, “If I dare to speak like this, then I naturally have quite a few in my inventory.”

As Lin Ming finished speaking he continued looking at the random treasures. His original idea was to casually pick some items and then conveniently take the broken emperor jade too. However, he immediately rejected this after he thought of it.

This was because besides the emperor jade fragment, the other items didn't need to be appraised at all. If he chose a random bunch of bargain items and then added on this strange emperor jade fragment once more, it would inevitably arouse the vendor's suspicions.

It was clear that this vendor didn't understand just what the emperor jade fragment was and Lin Ming lingering around here was suspicious to begin with. If he were to take the emperor jade fragment with a bunch of other things, then that would be far too suspicious.

Thinking of this, Lin Ming directly took up the emperor jade fragment and then flipped it over a few times in his hand. He suddenly said to Xiao Moxian, "Xian'er, I remember you said that your uncle wanted to refine his life's magic tool, but he needed to fuse in the treasure spirit of an Empyrean spirit treasure? A complete Empyrean spirit treasure would be too luxurious, but using a fragment should be more than enough. Since your uncle's 103,000th grand birthday celebration is coming up, then how about I make a gift of this spirit treasure fragment?"

Lin Ming was simply making things up on the spot. Where did Xiao Moxian have an uncle that needed an Empyrean spirit treasure to refine his life's magic tool?

But, Xiao Moxian was a smart young woman; she immediately realized that Lin Ming wanted to hide his intentions of buying this broken jade and avoid the suspicion of the old man.

"Could this broken jade be a treasure?"

Xiao Moxian felt this all a bit too unbelievable. But, whether or not Lin Ming's judgment was correct, she wouldn't ruin his play anyways. Without revealing a puzzled expression, she slapped on the most helpless look that she could. With a thick embarrassment in her tone, she said, "Sir Lin, don't you think that this gift is... a bit too sad? My uncle's celebration will have people coming from

all sides, and if you only take out a spirit treasure fragment then... don't you think it's a bit pitiful to take out? You should know that my uncle handles most decisions of my family. If he has a poor impression of you then I'm afraid that our matters will be..."

Xiao Moxian immediately responded with her own play. Lin Ming was left a bit stunned; wasn't her acting a bit too good?

Hearing Xiao Moxian call this gift a bit... sad, the divine runic master vendor's lips twitched. This was equal to saying that he was selling trash!

Just what sort of noble status was a divine runic master? He had lived to his old age and had a great deal of face, and yet right now he was insulted by a little girl; how could he be happy about this at all?

"Do you want to buy it or not!"

The old divine runic master coldly coughed.

Lin Ming quickly apologized. "Senior has misunderstood the situation. This junior didn't mean it like that. I only meant to say that this magic weapon fragment has the lowest value out of all of Senior's goods, but even so, it would bleed out far too much wealth from me. May I ask just how much this magic weapon fragment is?"

"Heh, you don't need to flatter me into forgetting!" The old man sneered. He stared at Lin Ming and then said, "10 blue soul runes!"

Lin Ming's heart skipped a beat as he heard this. He knew the approximate cost of an Empyrean spirit treasure fragment as well as the cost of a blue soul rune. 10 blue soul god runes for this fragment was far too outrageous. Although Lin Ming could afford 10 blue soul runes, he still felt that this old vendor was cheating him. If he agreed, not only would he make himself seem suspicious but this old man might not even sell it to him anymore.

"10 blue soul runes? Are you joking with me? As a senior, should

you really be trying to butcher a junior like this? The most I can offer you is three!” As Lin Ming spoke, he raised three fingers and three blue soul runes floated above his fingertips. Lin Ming had taken special care in choosing these three blue soul runes. Although their value wasn’t too high, they were still quite rare among blue soul runes; they couldn’t be bought with mere money. Lin Ming wanted to stir up this old divine runic master’s interest.

However, Lin Ming never thought that as soon as the old divine runic master saw these three runes, he would immediately grab back the emperor jade fragment!

Lin Ming inwardly grimaced. Could this old man not be planning on selling to him anymore?

If the old divine runic master didn’t plan on selling to Lin Ming then Lin Ming didn’t have anything else he could do; he could only leave. Otherwise, if Lin Ming offered a higher price, the old man’s suspicions would be even higher, finally only having the opposite effect.

The old man flipped the broken jade in his hands several times, carefully probing it and using his sense to evaluate it. This process continued for an entire incense stick of time.

This old man had already appraised this item many times before. In the Divine Runic Masters Guild, the divine runic masters were generally on good terms with each other. When others evaluated this item, they also came up with a similar appraisal.

This sort of magic weapon fragment was likely of the Empyrean spirit treasure rank.

This wasn’t too tempting to the old man. If it weren’t for the strange lines that covered this piece of jade, he would have already dealt with it.

An Empyrean spirit treasure wasn’t priceless even if complete; it would be far lower in value than a transcendent divine might. This

was because an Empyrean would at most be able to form a single transcendent divine might in their life, if at all. As for Empyrean spirit treasures, they would create several of them.

An incomplete Empyrean spirit treasure was even less valuable. It's only use was as Lin Ming had said, to draw out its artifact spirit and form one's own treasure.

Finally, the old man handed the broken jade to Lin Ming. He coldly said, "Three blue soul runes, for you."

Hearing these words, Lin Ming finally relaxed.

This old fellow was cautious and stingy to the point that he could squeeze oil from sand. A junior had chosen one of his items and even given a good reason for doing so, yet he had actually taken it back to look over several times!

Three blue soul runes was a bit high for an Empyrean spirit treasure fragment, but it wasn't too outrageous. Lin Ming feared that the runes he took out weren't able to move the old divine runic master. If so, he could only leave. Otherwise, the more he tried to barter the more suspicious the old man would be. It seemed that Xiao Moxian's performance just now was a bit more effective than he thought.

Lin Ming handed over the three blue soul runes and finally bought what he wanted. As for the old man, he was satisfied with the three blue soul runes Lin Ming had put forth; he had indeed needed them.

Chapter 1550 – Undying Medicine

In order to prevent any more problems occurring, after Lin Ming bought his item he took a few more circles around and then bid his farewells to Yue Liuxing and Yue Qifeng. Together with Xiao Moxian, he left the Divine Runic Masters Guild.

“Lin Ming, what is that thing you bought?” Xiao Moxian couldn’t help but ask Lin Ming with a sound transmission as soon as they left. Her curiosity had gotten the better of her.

“If I’m not wrong then this should be something left behind by the Asura Road Master.” Lin Ming honestly replied. Xiao Moxian was startled upon hearing this. The Asura Road Master!

In the Asura Road, the Asura Road Master was the true divine god. Anything related to him, even if it was only a tiny fragment, was astoundingly valuable. No wonder Lin Ming had tried so hard to buy this piece of broken jade.

“What use does this have?”

“I have no idea at present. But no matter what, we’re headed back to Heaven’s Secret for now!”

“You want to return to Heaven’s Secret?” Xiao Moxian asked, surprised. They had just left from there not too long ago. “What do you want to go to Heaven’s Secret for?”

“There’s some information I need. This information is extremely important for me to learn the divine runic arts.”

The divine runic arts were broad and all-encompassing. In order to study them, one needed to invest a massive amount of time and energy while accumulating a tremendous amount of knowledge and experience. What Lin Ming lacked the most now was time. Even if he had the Asura Sutra supporting him, it was impossible to do all of this overnight, and if all of this took too much time then it was meaningless to Lin Ming.

After several hours, Lin Ming arrived at Heaven's Secret once more. This time, Lin Ming had chosen to change his appearance.

Although Heaven's Secret sold all sorts of information, what they wouldn't reveal was what sort of information their guests had inquired about. This was one of the most basic rules of an intelligence network, otherwise there would be no guest that would be able to ask for information in confidence, lest they be looked up by others.

Even so, Lin Ming felt it was safe to change his appearance. After all, the information he was seeking now was highly sensitive.

"Sir, what would you like to inquire about?" The doorman asked Lin Ming at the entrance to Heaven's Secret.

"Divine runic masters."

"What rank?"

"Fifth rank and above."

"Then please go to the fifth floor." The doorman respectfully said. This was the same floor as last time.

After reaching the fifth floor with Xiao Moxian, Lin Ming took up the wooden sign marked with 'people' and then was led to the corresponding room.

In this room, there was a blue-clothed old man waiting for Lin Ming.

The old man sat in the back of the room, separated from guests by a hanging curtain. He spoke to Lin Ming through this curtain.

"What would you like to know?" The old man's voice was hoarse and gritty, as if he were in the waning years of his life.

"I want information on divine runic masters and alchemists. I do not want any divine runic masters from the Divine Runic Masters Guild. They must live outside of Divine Rune City and should preferably have strange and eccentric personalities. They need to

be people who have committed all sorts of sinful and evil deeds. I need their location, their cultivation methods, their cultivation boundaries, an approximation of their strength, what influences support them, and all other related information! Moreover, the divine runic masters should be at the fifth grade or above. At the very least they must be at the fourth grade!”

The blue-clothed old man was surprised as he listened to Lin Ming. “The information you want is extremely detailed so our price will be very high. This is also because if we betray the information of these individuals, our Heaven’s Secret might offend them.”

Heaven’s Secret was an intelligence network and thus they inevitably collected information on great influences and important figures. If they sold this information to others they were likely to offend them, especially if they sold this information to their enemies or other hostile groups. Thus, Heaven’s Secret would be very careful with what sort of information they sold. If they couldn’t offend the individual, then they would never sell the information no matter how high the price. As for those that they could offend, the price would be exorbitantly high.

An intelligence network was involved in all aspects of the world. If their background wasn’t deep enough and they aroused the anger of some people, it was possible that they would be dug up and eliminated!

“Information on divine runic masters is sensitive to begin with. There are often many complex relationships behind these divine runic masters. Luckily, you don’t want any information about divine runic masters that are a part of the Divine Runic Masters Guild, otherwise no matter how many origin energy runes you offered we still wouldn’t sell it to you. If you want information on divine runic masters that have been exiled outside of Divine Rune City, then I can actually provide some information to you. There are a few pieces of information I have which aren’t too involved

with the greater influences. Each piece of information will be charged according to the detail as well as the grade of the divine runic master and they will be around 500 million to 700 million origin energy runes each.”

As the blue-clothed old man said these words, even though Lin Ming had already been prepared for this, he still felt his heart drip blood.

This was indeed ridiculously expensive! Although he was wealthy, during all his years in the Asura Road, he had never earned money, only spent it, and he had spent a great deal of it too. Lin Ming didn’t have too many nine sun jades left on him.

Lin Ming took out a piece of white jade and poured his divine sense into it, further detailing his requests. He wanted to know their strength, cultivation, moral behavior, temperament, and so forth. He also only wanted those evil and demonic people. As for divine runic masters that were highly respected and noble characters, he didn’t want them at all.

After the blue-clothed old man looked through the white jade, he said, “There are a total of three individuals that match your request. The total price will be 1.6 billion!”

“Mm...”

Lin Ming took a deep breath and fished out some nine sun jades from his spatial ring. After he lined them up, he said, “Tell me everything.”

“Alright!”

The blue-clothed old man wrote down three sections of information on a jade slip.

Lin Ming took the jade slip and recorded all the information in his mind. Then, he and Xiao Moxian left Heaven’s Secret...

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100,000 miles southeast of Divine Rune City, there was a remote mountain. People rarely visited this mountain, and deep in a valley of it was a lake that stretched for ten miles, named Star Lake.

As night arrived each evening, Star Lake would be filled with the night winds. The reflection of starlight would shine down on the lake, making it seem like a stretch of liquid silver, beautiful to the eyes.

On one side of Star Lake was an ancient castle.

This castle was built with obsidian, and had already stood here for 100,000 years. A part of the castle extended into the lake, leaving a black reflection on the surface. Looking at this black reflection, one felt a sense of peace and quiet.

However, no one imagined that such a beautiful and wondrous place was in truth a den of darkest evils...

Within the castle, there was a completely sealed off space. The floors were made of pale red tiles and the walls were dark gray. Pill furnaces and divine runic tables were scattered all about, making it seem messy and chaotic.

On these stone tables and on the walls, there were black stains. These stains were left by dried up blood.

In the center of this space, there was a row of metal frames, dozens of them altogether. But, what was startling was that on every metal frame, there was a young girl tied up.

These young girls were in rags and some were even naked. The oldest of them were in their twenties, and there were even those that were 16-17. The youngest among them looked to be around 11-12, with a few 13-14 year olds placed throughout.

Every girl was covered with scars. These scars were found on their necks, thighs, chests, stomachs, and wrists. There were knife wounds, scratches, and even bite marks.

Some wounds were intentionally afflicted, and some seemed

specifically designed to let out blood.

After suffering for such a long time, all of these girls were in the depths of despair, their eyes without light, like dying embers. If it weren't for their faint heartbeat and breathing, one might even think that they were dead.

Although they had been tortured into such states, one could still see the beauty that hid behind their dirty faces and disheveled hair. It was clear that these were once proud beauties of different races.

There were humans, monsters, demons, and even saints!

In fact, not only were they beauties of different races, but there were those amongst them with relatively high levels of martial talent! Some had special physiques, variation bloodlines, or variation dantians.

Some girls were martial artists. There were those at the Xiantian realm, and even some at the Revolving Core realm.

But now, their cultivations had been sealed away; they were no different from ordinary mortal girls.

If one were to send these girls to large influences, then although they might not have been peak geniuses, they should still have become inner court disciples. If one raised them with enough effort, then there were high chances that they would reach the Divine Lord realm in the future!

But now, all of that was impossible. Their lives would be buried in the horrendous and despairing castle.

Some of these people had been kidnapped, and some had been bought as slaves.

Of them, most were mortals that had never cultivated before. They were simply unable to withstand the inhuman torture. Without a doubt, they would die from suffering in just several months.

But those who cultivated had already been trapped in this castle for several years. After being tortured night and day for several years, the average person would have suffered mental collapse or died. But, the master of this castle was an alchemist, and with all sorts of miracle pills and medicines, wanting to die was nearly impossible. This castle master would even use dangerous pills to heighten the cultivation boundary of these girls, digging out their life potential and then stealing it away.

What awaited them was a lifetime of endless suffering and pain. Only when their essence energy and blood vitality was sucked dry, only when their youth and strength had faded, would they be abandoned and buried in the back gardens of the castle. Seemingly because of the presence of their skeletons, the flowers in the back gardens bloomed especially bright.

At this time, the space barriers of this hidden space suddenly shook violently. A man's roar echoed out within it!

“Trash! Trash! Damn it all!”

Bang!

With an explosive sound, something seemed to detonate. Stone tables were flipped over and pill furnaces were tossed away, bouncing all over. A pale man with grayish white hair rushed in like a rabid beast.

This man wore tattered robes and he looked to be middle-aged, but, there was not a trace of blood on his face and a faint death aura percolated around his body.

This meant that his life was nearing its end.

“I failed, I failed again! The Life Lifting Undying Pill, just how many times have I failed!?” The man's eyes were blood red, seeming as if he were about to go crazy! He was a spirit, but the faint soul glow that symbolized the soul race had already vanished. This was a sign that his fires of life had diminished and his life was

nearing its end... he would have at most another hundred years to live.

He dreamed to refine an Endless Life Immortality Pill. For this pill, he had refined for 10,000 years already. He thought that he would never be able to successfully complete the refining of this pill before he died, thus in the last several hundred years, he had been refining the lower quality Life Lifting Undying Pill. He wanted to lengthen his life, even if it were only by several hundred years!

Chapter 1551 – Sex Fiend Torchriver

“I am a sixth grade divine runic master and eighth grade alchemist, how could I fail here!” The spiritas man seemed to teeter on the edge of insanity. “It’s impossible for me to fail, it must be because the blood essence quality of you whores is insufficient!”

The man pulled on a girl’s hair, causing her to scream out in pain and fear.

Towards this scene, most of the other girls still had dead expressions on their faces, as if they didn’t see anything at all.

But, there were some girls that hadn’t been here long enough who trembled as they saw this, panic coloring their complexions.

Here, besides being raped and having their essence energy stolen, this crazy divine runic master would sometimes use their flesh and blood to refine pills! They had witnessed some of their companions being tossed alive into a pill furnace in order to refine Life Lifting Undying Pills.

To life forms with an intelligence of their own, death was an extremely terrifying matter. Upon approaching death, many people would turn crazy and lose all sense of reasoning. In just the mortal world alone, when some kings were on the verge of death, they would use the strength of their entire nation to find life extending medicines. These kings would have alchemists take virgin boys and girls and use their flesh and blood for alchemy. Some kings even specifically raised 12-13 year old virgin girls to take their menstrual blood every month to refine pills, and in order to guarantee the virgin purity of their menstrual blood, they would only allow them to eat berries and drink morning dew.

In the martial world, this insanity could reach the limits!

In particular, if an alchemist feared death, this would intensify

everything he did.

“What a pity, what a pity, if I could capture a proud daughter of heaven who reached the Divine Transformation realm before her 60th cultivation year, and then refine her virgin blood essence into a pill, I would definitely be able to live on for another hundred more years!”

The spiritas man spoke as if he had lost his soul, his gestures bizarre and ghostly.

Many years ago, this spiritas man had been an Elder of the Divine Runic Masters Guild and also had a World King cultivation.

As a sixth grade divine runic master, eighth grade alchemist, and even an Elder of the Divine Runic Masters Guild, this spiritas man was blessed with endless brilliant halos around him. There were countless influences that curried his favor, and even Sect Leaders of Great World King influences had to treat him with politeness and respect. As for his disciples and followers in the Divine Runic Masters Guild, there was no need to mention them; they wouldn't even dare disobey him in the least.

His prestige had been as high as the sun and he lived a life where he was the center of countless stars. There were countless people that respected and admired him, and there were even many female divine runic arts apprentices that willingly offered themselves to him for a higher status, allowing him to do whatever he wished to them.

After tasting these young girls, the spiritas man began to seduce them on his own initiative, bringing in many young girls as his toys. He had held the post of Elder for tens of thousands of years and countless women had been ruined and deceived by him. As for the disciples he received, they tended to be women, and many of these disciples also had to simultaneously serve as his living furnaces.

Towards this spiritas man who was obsessed with obscene

desires, even immortals couldn't compare to the lavish lifestyle he lived.

He wasn't satisfied with his World King cultivation and he wasn't satisfied with being an ordinary Elder of the Divine Runic Masters Guild. He wanted to become a Red Robe Elder and he wanted to become a Great World King. He used all methods at his disposal to grab more resources and take advantages of anyone he could. Time and time again he formed deep grudges with others within the Divine Runic Masters Guild, and with his continued violating of young female apprentices, he was finally impeached by the Council of Red Robe Elders and was removed from his post of Elder.

This was something he remembered and something he bore a deep grudge towards. During a trip into a dangerous mystic realm, he tried to wrest away sole possession of a miracle medicine while also killing the divine runic master Elder who had proposed to impeach him. But in the end he was defeated. Not only did he fail to obtain the miracle medicine but he was even beaten to the ground and severely wounded.

Afterwards, he was expelled from the Divine Runic Masters Guild.

Some people wanted to finish him off and cut off the disease at the roots. He fled to the open sea, living a life of seclusion for tens of thousands of years. It was only when his arch enemy died during an exploratory trip into a mystic realm did he show himself again.

But when he reappeared, his lifespan was nearing its end. Not just that, but in the past when he was injured in the mystic realm he had also wounded his divine soul, causing his lifespan to be drastically reduced. During these past years, he had done everything at his disposal to refine life extending pills and pills to restore his divine soul. But, because the foundation of his life force was mostly destroyed, every effort he made was nearly useless to

begin with.

As his day of death approached closer and closer, he had fallen into a state of madness. He was too obsessed with his previous life of endless glory and joys and wasn't able to endure the loneliness and desolation until his end. He bought a large number of young women, venting his rage on their bodies and using their blood essence to refine pills. Finally, he built his evil castle of sin on the shores of Star Lake!

Because his divine sense had been damaged and he had thrown his entire being into refining life extending pills, he had no intention or desire to refine other pills. Thus, to many great influences he had lost all value, with none of them bothering with him. Because of this, he could only steal away a limited number of resources; wanting to obtain the proud daughter of heaven that he needed was impossible.

Thus, of the young girls in castle, most of them were simply mortal women with extremely high levels of martial talent.

Bang!

This nearly crazed spiritas man flipped over a stone table and then threw himself onto a young 16 year old girl.

This young girl only had a Pulse Condensation cultivation. She had been born in the Asura Road and had once been the core disciple of a tiny sect. This sect was far too small; one could say that it was situated between the martial world and the mortal world. In her sect, this young girl had been a proud daughter of heaven, admired by countless young disciples.

But in a single night, her entire sect was exterminated. All beauties, all young women with any level of talent, were rolled up in a black wind and brought to this hellish castle.

The one who destroyed her sect was this spiritas man. To her, his World King cultivation was an incomprehensible existence!

This fiend didn't immediately rape these women. Rather, he used their virgin blood to refine pills, but unfortunately for him, his efforts failed again and again.

This caused him to become even more insane. As he threw himself onto this young 16 year old girl, he ripped away the remnants of her tattered clothes.

In that moment, the young girl was left entirely naked. Her face was pale and she pitifully screamed out. But, this scream seemed to stimulate the spiritas man, causing his eyes to light up with a blood red color. These last years had been endless pain to him, and only by making others feel this pain was he able to be satisfied.

He licked his lips, demonically grinning as he said, "Your whorish blood is too low quality, causing me to fail in refining my Undying Pills. Since that's the case, keeping your virgin body around any longer is useless. I will suck dry the little primordial yin that you have!"

As the spiritas man cackled, he bit down on her pale shoulder, greedily sucking up her blood. What he was doing was not just drinking her blood but also absorbing her blood essence, using it to restore his declining fires of life.

The young girl crazily struggled, but the more she struggled the more it seemed to arouse this bestial demon. His pupils had gone wide and his entire body was excited. He tore off his own clothes, pressing himself onto her. But, just when he was about to thrust into her body, he stiffened and his enlarged pupils rapidly contracted. In that instant just now, he had felt a sense sweep through this sealed off space, and soon afterwards, a deep killing intent had locked onto him!

Without thinking, he threw himself forwards!

Bang!

With a terrifying explosion of energy, a spear light pierced

through the void like a 100,000 foot rainbow!

Under this unstoppable divine light, the space barrier that sealed off this area was torn apart like paper. Not just that, but half of the obsidian castle immediately collapsed!

Rumble rumble rumble!

Stones tumbled as walls came falling down all around. The spiritas man's hideout was destroyed.

A young man and woman floated in the air. The man grasped a spear, his eyes shimmering with killing intent. He pointed his spear right towards the spiritas man's head.

“You, you are sex fiend divine runic master Torchriver?”

Lin Ming's voice dripped with murder as he glared at this spiritas man.

Lin Ming's request towards Heaven's Secret was that he wanted a fifth grade or above divine runic master who had an ordinary World King cultivation or below, who had no influences, or only weak influences behind them, and did all sorts of evil and sinful deeds.

The information of the first divine runic master that Heaven's Secret had given to him was that of this sex fiend Torchriver. In his life he had raped countless women and he had developed a grotesquely infamous reputation within the Divine Runic Masters Guild. Finally, he had been banished by them.

Lin Ming never imagined that this Torchriver would go so mad as he neared the end of his life. During these past years, it was unknown how many young girls had died beneath his hands. Not even dying 10,000 times would make up for his sins!

Near Lin Ming, Xiao Moxian tightly clenched her jaw; she had borne witness to everything that had happened. To see other women harmed like this, her rage had already reached its limits. “Lin Ming, do not kill him. Leave him a sliver of life; I want him to

experience a life that is worse than death!”

Chapter 1552 – Divine Runic Master

Shortcut

“Who are you?”

To be ambushed just as he was about to rape someone, Torchriver was burning with rage. His eyes were blood red, as if he wanted to devour Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian.

But at this time, he noticed Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian’s cultivations.

They were only at the Divine Lord realm!?

Were they hiding their cultivation?

No, that wasn’t right... they were extraordinary young elites!

Torchriver had raped countless women in his life, and he usually only preyed on young girls. Thus, he was very sensitive to the life auras that surrounded young girls so he could confirm that Xiao Moxian wasn’t very old.

So young, and yet they had reached the Divine Lord realm; just how had they cultivated!?

This discovery caused Torchriver’s eyes to shine brilliantly.

“A variation bloodline! She must possess a variation bloodline! A proud daughter of heaven and she also has a variation bloodline! If I can use her blood as medicine and eat her up every day then perhaps I really might be able to heal the wound to my divine soul. I will be able to live for thousands more years and complete my immortality pill!”

Torchriver suddenly cackled, “The heavens haven’t abandoned me, they haven’t abandoned me! What I lack is a proud daughter of heaven for my alchemy, and yet you have delivered yourself right to my door! Good! Very good! You will become my living furnace. We shall dual cultivate every day and I will bring you to paradise!

As Torchriver spoke, he lewdly stared at Xiao Moxian.

This caused Xiao Moxian to nearly burst apart with rage!

“Lin Ming, dig out his eyes, slice out his tongue, and cripple his cultivation! I want to slice off his flesh and slowly torture him for a hundred years, a thousand years with every slice!

Xiao Moxian came from a demon and monster bloodline to begin with; she was no blindly puerile and benevolent person. How could she allow herself to be insulted in such a way!

“Haha, if I haven’t misunderstood then you are only two martial artists at the Divine Lord realm. Your talent is a bit better than those of your generation, and yet you think you can kill me? You are insane! Even though my cultivation boundary has dropped I am still a half-step World King! Catching you two is the same as catching two chickens!”

Torchriver raved. He turned to Lin Ming and chortled again and again, “Is this your little lover boy? Very well, then I shall use him for my alchemy right in front of you!”

Before Torchriver finished speaking, his complexion suddenly changed. He could feel a vast and deep killing intent cover him. Then, the surrounding world changed. The world fell away, the stars vanished, and everything was isolated from him. He was completely trapped in a sealed off space!

“Force field!?”

Torchriver immediately realized that this black-clothed youth had surrounded him with a force field. For such a genius, it wasn’t a surprise if they had a force field. But, what astonished Torchriver was that this force field formed an incomparably stable space, far surpassing the limits of any Divine Lord realm martial artist. There were even many Holy Lords who couldn’t compare to this!

“Interesting, such talent even causes me to be more inspired to turn you into a pill!” Torchriver said, brilliantly staring at Lin

Ming.

Lin Ming coldly sneered, “The information that Heaven’s Secret gave me said that you have already fallen to the brink of madness, but now it seems that not only are you mad but you are also stupid. Your cultivation has fallen to a half-step World King, and with your fires of life nearly extinguished, even among half-step World Kings you are the weakest. A talented late Holy Lord martial artist would already be able to brutally murder you and yet you continue to dream on! Now die!”

As Lin Ming spoke, he hurtled himself forwards. Although his speed wasn’t fast, his figure was as calm and stable as a mountain!

Nine Stars of the Dao Palace – Purple Temple Dao Palace!

Lin Ming revolved his strength to the limit and smashed his spear down at Torchriver!

Because the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace had been lost for far too long a time, and in addition to the changes that occurred in the Heavenly Dao Laws, it had become extremely difficult to practice. But, this difficulty meant that it had become even stronger than before. Although there was no text that stated how the different levels of the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace corresponded to the different ranks in the essence gathering system, Lin Ming could approximately confirm that opening a single star in the Nine Stars of the Dao palace far surpassed the early Divine Lord realm of the essence gathering system.

In other words, although Lin Ming appeared to be an early Divine Lord, the truth was that when he combined the cultivation of his body transformation and essence gathering systems, he already far surpassed that.

Torchriver naturally couldn’t understand Lin Ming’s Nine Stars the Dao Palace. He simply grinned, saying, “Since you want to die, allow me to help you along.”

Torchriver took out a deep red sword from his spatial ring and then slashed out at Lin Ming. He wanted to crush Lin Ming's spear light and cut apart Lin Ming's body at the same time!

However, just when his sword light came into contact with the Phoenix Blood Spear, Torchriver's smile froze. The spear light he thought he could easily tear apart actually contained a horrifying strength beyond description. It was like this spear light was formed from heavy stars, able to collapse space and cut through galaxies!

Kacha!

With an explosive sound, Torchriver's sword light shattered. The red spear thrust towards Torchriver's chest!

This spear had locked down Torchriver and locked down the space around him. It was impossible to dodge!

Even Torchriver's blood vitality rebelled, as if it wanted to break free from his body.

...What?

Seeing this spear light rush towards him, Torchriver immediately paled. He thought that killing a junior like Lin Ming would be as easy as turning his hand; he never imagined that this would be the result!

This youth's strength was powerful beyond understanding. Although this spear hadn't pierced him yet, what he knew was that even if he didn't die, this spear strike would still severely wound him and cause him to lose all combat strength!

In this life or death moment, Torchriver punched his own chest and spat out a mouthful of blood essence. This blood essence formed a mysterious symbol in the air!

At the same time, Torchriver pulled out two divine runic symbols from his spatial ring. He thrust them outwards, causing them to burn in the air!

After these two divine runic symbols burned, they turned into a protective barrier that received Lin Ming's spear strike!

Kacha!

With an explosive sound, Lin Ming's Phoenix Blood Spear smashed into this translucent barrier.

In a brief moment, the barrier exploded and the spear continued thrusting ahead, driving into the blood symbol that Torchriver spat out.

And at this time, Lin Ming finally felt a tremendous existence. The Phoenix Blood Spear suddenly slowed down, startling Lin Ming. He had used an arcane technique to strengthen himself, causing the might of this strike to reach the power of five dragons, and yet he hadn't been able to kill this Torchriver who had fallen in cultivation boundary and had nearly lost all his blood vitality!

Without a doubt, this was the work of the divine runic arts.

Torchriver had thrown out two divine runic symbols to lessen Lin Ming's spear potential and had then used a divine runic symbol formed from his own blood to resist Lin Ming's all-out strike. The divine runic arts could be used for more than assisting in alchemy; they could be used in combat.

However, relying on this alone was not enough to change Torchriver's fate. As the Phoenix Blood Spear was blocked by the blood symbol, Lin Ming's thoughts moved and a shadow rushed out from his inner world, hurtling towards Torchriver. This was Lin Ming's Essence Spirit Embryo avatar!

It dwelled in Lin Ming's inner world and could rush out at any time to fight.

After absorbing Tian Mingzi and the others' blood energy, the Essence Spirit Embryo Stone had broken through yet another boundary. In terms of mortal bodily strength, it far surpassed Lin Ming!

Ca!

The Essence Spirit Embryo Stone thrust a spear towards Torchriver, aiming to take his head.

“Ahhh!”

Torchriver cried out in alarm, scared out of his mind. A single Lin Ming was already as terrifying as a life-reaping ghost. Only by sacrificing a great portion of his remaining life was he able to form this divine runic symbol of blood to barely resist the attack, and now another Lin Ming had appeared!

Peng!

With a cracking sound, Torchriver's protective energy was unable to withstand the terrifying strength of the Essence Spirit Embryo Stone. In just a moment, Torchriver's defenses collapsed and the avatar's spear pierced through his chest.

The long spear penetrated through Torchriver's body. In front of the horrifying strength of the Essence Spirit Embryo Stone, the frail mortal body of a spirit was no different than paper.

A massive amount of flesh and bones were twisted by this dreadful strength. Torchriver's body was pierced through like a water bag, blood leaking out from all over him.

“How is this possible...”

Torchriver's eyes filled with despair and disbelief. He had been easily defeated by a mere Divine Lord junior and would die here... how could he accept such a ridiculous result?

Pulse Cutting Palm!

Lin Ming smashed his hand into Torchriver's chest. A savage and wild true essence rushed through Torchriver's body, tearing apart every single meridian within him and severing the power of his blood vitality.

In that moment, Torchriver's body fell down from the air like a

ragdoll. In a strange coincidence, he fell into the sealed space where the young girls were imprisoned.

Puff!

As the crippled Torchriver plopped to the floor, his blood splashed out. The young girls who were imprisoned stared helplessly on. This unbelievably powerful Torchriver had fallen to the ground like a dead dog, leaving all of them stunned.

Was this a dream?

Torchriver still had a single breath of life remaining. Lin Ming had intentionally kept Torchriver alive, because the shortcut for him to become a divine runic master was in Torchriver's body.

Chapter 1553 – Refine the Soul

These girls that had been tortured by Torchriver over so many years had already anticipated that they would die here. They had lost themselves to despair long ago and there was nothing left that could stir anything in their hearts.

But at this moment, they saw that cruel and god-like Torchriver fall onto the floor in a completely inhuman mess, on the verge of death. Then, a faint spark of hope ignited in their stunned eyes.

After being beneath the agonizing abuse of Torchriver for so many years, even if they saw him about to die, they still couldn't believe it. They were afraid that this was all a dream.

At this time, Lin Ming floated down with his long spear in hand. Seeing Lin Ming descend like a god from heaven, the young girls were left in a daze.

“You're free...”

Lin Ming flicked his fingers and several true essence arrows shot forth, cutting the chains that shackled these young girls. Even the energy seals within their bodies were lifted.

The moment that their shackles were cut, because many of the girls were weak and their muscles had atrophied, they fell onto the floor. The pain from this fall finally made them believe that this scene in front of them was real and not a dream!

As they felt the rough ground, they also felt the freedom that they hadn't had for such a long time. Their bodies shivered.

It wasn't known who started crying out first, but the girls couldn't help but weep one after another.

They didn't know who this young man was, but in their hearts, this young man was their god and their savior. Even if they had to take care of him for their entire lives they were willing to do so. Even if this youth wanted them all to die here they would still

comply without blinking. This was because when they were imprisoned by Torchriver, they didn't even have the ability to commit suicide. They had lived a life worse than death!

Looking at these young girls, Lin Ming sighed in pity for them, lamenting their fates. Many of them had a decent talent for cultivating martial arts, but their lives were mostly destroyed.

Lin Ming flicked his fingers again and dozens of pills flew into the hands of these young girls. Lin Ming had given them miracle pills to make up for their lost blood vitality and to wash their marrow.

These young girls were abused by Torchriver and their blood vitality had been mostly sucked dry. Each of them had a pale white face and their yin energy was lacking. If they wanted to continue cultivating martial arts in this sort of condition, it would be impossibly difficult to do so.

Normally, the lower cultivation a martial artist was, the worse their bloodline was, the easier it was to make up for lost blood vitality. The higher one's cultivation was, the greater one's bloodline, and the more one's talent defied the heavens, then the more difficult it would be to make up for lost blood vitality.

But as for martial artists with low cultivation, although it was relatively easy to make up for lost blood vitality, they were simply far too weak to find the necessary blood tonics and pills to do so. Thus, for a martial artist at a low cultivation to make up for lost blood vitality was extremely difficult. For these young girls, it was simply impossible.

However, this was a simple task for Lin Ming. To him, these pills weren't precious at all, but to these starry-eyed girls, these were unrivalled miracle medicines!

Most of these young girls were common mortals. Even if they were to walk down the road of martial arts, they would only be able to reach the Pulse Condensation, Houtian, or Xiantian realms.

To them a Heaven Opening Pill would be a priceless treasure, much less these miracle pills that Lin Ming handed out.

“Take these. These are all pills with moderate properties. Even though your bodies are weak, there won't be any side effects.”

Lin Ming gently said. As these girls held the miracle pills in their hands, their fingers began to shiver.

Although they didn't know what grade these pills were, they could approximate their value from the rich medicinal fragrance wafting off them.

Because of this, there were some girls that held the pills tightly in their hands, not willing to swallow them.

Lin Ming sighed again as he saw this. This was the life of low level, mortal martial artists. To a high level martial artist, things that they casually tossed to the side of the road were incomparably precious treasures to these low level martial artists.

Lin Ming waved his hand once more and shot out some more pills. This time, the pills were thrust right into these girls' mouths.

“Rest well. You all may leave whenever you wish, or you may also stay here. Three days from now, I will bring you to the nearest mortal city. I suggest that you wait, because the nearest mortal city is 10,000 miles away. Here is something to tide you over for the next few days.”

Lin Ming tossed out a bottle of fasting pills. This was the limit to which he could help these young girls. Their future days and the paths they chose to take would rely on themselves. After thinking some more, he said, “You all possess talent to cultivate the martial arts. In the future, if you can walk far down that road, then perhaps the bitter and painful experiences of your youths might not be a bad thing.”

As Lin Ming finished speaking he no longer delayed. He picked up the nearly dead Torchriver and flew away.

Left behind, the many young girls watched Lin Ming's fading back, their eyes lost in thought. The fragrance of the medicinal pills was still in their mouths, and the warm medicinal efficacy nourished their bodies, soothing their pain. In their lives, this was probably the happiest moment they had experienced...

Sometimes, setbacks and frustrations weren't bad. These experiences could allow a person to mature at the fastest speed possible. If a person grew up without experiencing any problems, then it was hard to temper their personality and will. Xiao Moxian was similar; only in the nine years within Tragic Death Valley had she matured in mind.

Lin Ming brought the near-dead Torchriver and went to the deepest depths of Star Lake. Here, he summoned Primordius Heavenly Palace and entered it along with Xiao Moxian.

"Lin Ming, what do you plan on doing?"

Xiao Moxian was confused. Why would Lin Ming spend so much money to purchase information on divine runic masters from Heaven's Secret. Moreover, he had especially chosen evil and sinful divine runic masters. Could it be that he wanted to save the common people and eliminate future scourges? However, no matter what was said, they had indeed performed a good deed today.

"You'll know in a bit. This is the first time I've tried this so I don't know whether or not it will succeed."

Lin Ming took a deep breath. He stretched out his right hand and then a cloud of darkness began to condense over his palm. In another several breaths of time, within this halo of black light, a dark gray cube slowly appeared, exuding a deep and mystical aura.

This was the Magic Cube.

After Lin Ming took out the Magic Cube, the dying and despairing Torchriver suddenly twitched like he had been bitten

by a snake. His body immediately stiffened.

He stared at the Magic Cube with wide eyes that were filled with utter panic.

“This... what is this!?”

His voice shivered and fear discolored his face. Torchriver was a spiritas. Within their bodies, the soul was the most important and integral part of them. Thus, he was extremely sensitive to this divine soul artifact, the Magic Cube!

The saints refined their bodies, humans refined their energy, and the spiritas refined their souls. In a sense, the Magic Cube was the greatest and most precious treasure to the entire soul race, but at the same time, it was their supreme nemesis! This was because the Magic Cube was able to directly pull out a person's soul from their body and swallow it!

Now that Torchriver was in front of the Magic Cube, he was in that exact situation. He felt a terrifying force latch onto his body, faintly trying to pull out his soul!

This strength left one drowning in helplessness, filled with fear!

Torchriver had originally been on the verge of collapse. His life was at its end, and with his cultivation being crippled by Lin Ming, there was nothing in his heart but anguish. But now that he faced the Magic Cube, another emotion overcame all else. This feeling was fear. In front of the Magic Cube, he felt as if he was being thrust into the deepest pit of hell, forever unable to reincarnate!

Torchriver struggled to retreat, leaving a trail of blood on the ground. For a spiritas to see the Magic Cube was like a mouse seeing a cat, a frog seeing a snake; this was an instinctual, inborn suppression!

However, he had been locked onto by a strength and was left unable to struggle at all. He could only watch helplessly as the Magic Cube came closer and closer. This feeling was truly

bloodcurdling!

“You... what are you trying to do!?”

“I am going to refine your soul.” Lin Ming smiled. But at this moment, his smile was extremely fierce. “This is a divine tool that can refine souls. Its name is the Divine Crystal Magic Cube. You might have heard of it before or you might not have, but none of that matters, because you will soon feel its strength.”

“You... what do you want to know, I will tell you anything you want, do not swallow my soul!”

Torchriver was paler than white, his voice trembling the entire time.

“I’m sorry. The things I want to know are not things you can tell me.”

Lin Ming fiendishly grinned. Then, he poured his origin energy into the Magic Cube. The Magic Cube began to spin, sucking up all of the nearby divine soul energy!

With the Magic Cube as the center, a black vortex appeared, seeming as if it could swallow the world!

“Ahhhhhhh!”

Torchriver issued a heart-piercing scream. His body was twisted apart in this vortex and crushed to pieces. A deep blue divine soul was forcefully torn out from his ruined body before being sucked into the Magic Cube!

“No - !”

Torchriver’s last cry seemed to stretch to infinity within this vortex, completed distorted.

After that came pain, a pain that couldn’t be described.

A terrifying energy struck his soul form!

And forcefully tore away his spirit mark!

The souls of the spiritas were strong to begin with and their spirit marks were extremely deep. For their spirit mark to be torn out, the pain was excruciating beyond compare.

Torchriver felt as if time had slowed down to a crawl. Each breath of time seemed to last as long as a year. This endless and inexhaustible pain made him want to die but he simply didn't possess the ability to kill himself.

Torchriver cried out again and again. Lin Ming was able to extinguish his soul from the start, but he didn't do so. Instead, he slowly grinded away Torchriver's spirit mark. Towards this scumbag divine runic master who had caused so much suffering, only this sort of fate could slightly make up for all his sins.

A person's soul was composed of pure memories and their spirit mark. This was a person's 'characteristic of life'. If they lost either half then the person would lose all sense of self.

A person's spirit mark was like endless tiny filaments that thoroughly penetrated into every nook and cranny of a person's soul. Wanting to completely erase them without damaging the memories was impossible. But, the Magic Cube could actually do this. It had the ability to pull out these tiny, imperceptible threads.

And as this ability was reflected on Torchriver's body, it was more painful than being slowly flayed alive!

Lin Ming slowly and carefully removed Torchriver's spirit mark from his memories. This was also because Lin Ming had never used the Magic Cube in this manner before. It was his first time using the Magic Cube to produce memory fragments on his own initiative.

In order to maintain the full body of Torchriver's memories, Lin Ming used a full day and night to complete this laborious work. And as he was nearing the end, Torchriver's soul had already dimmed down to nothing but an ember. His consciousness had been slowly tortured and destroyed by Lin Ming.

Chapter 1554 – Heavenly Extreme Bliss

This day and night of pain was simply indescribable. Even Xiao Moxian who swore she would cut Torchriver to pieces still felt her heart skip a beat as she saw his fate. The echoes of pain that transmitted from Torchriver's soul were far too brutal and agonizing. It was hard to imagine just what he had experienced in this day.

“Finished...” Lin Ming let out a long sigh of relief. He looked towards the complete ownerless memory fragment that floated within the Magic Cube and a happy expression crossed his lips. He had spent a great sum of money at Heaven's Secret to purchase information and then had cut down Torchriver with all of his strength. Everything he did was for this ownerless and complete memory fragment, the memories of a divine runic master!

Of the three divine tools, the Divine Magic Cube, Grandmist Spirit Bead, and that secretive and mysterious Purple Card, each one was the highest level of treasures.

For the Purple Card, Lin Ming had no idea what its function was.

But as for the Magic Cube and Grandmist Spirit Bead, he had more or less dug out their secrets.

Of the Grandmist Spirit Bead and the Magic Cube, one was focused on the body and the other on the soul!

The Grandmist Spirit Bead could forcefully wrest away and swallow the blood vitality of all life. Moreover, it possessed the ability to condense all of this blood vitality into Grandmist Spirit Bead essence. The effects of the Grandmist Spirit Bead essence even surpassed a transcendent divine pill that was refined by an Empyrean!

When Lin Ming broke through the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace, if he didn't have the help of the Grandmist Spirit Bead essence,

then even if he had the strength from the Essence Spirit Embryo stone and Xiao Moxian's primordial yin blood, it still wouldn't have been enough for him to achieve his breakthrough!

The reason that the Good Fortune Saint Son had the strength to suppress an ordinary World King with his peak Divine Lord realm cultivation was all because of the heaven-defying support of the Grandmist Spirit Bead!

In a sense, the Grandmist Spirit Bead suited the saint race far more than any other race.

If a human were to obtain the Grandmist Spirit Bead then the use of it would be extremely minor for them. This was because the road of the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace had been blocked!

In the past when Empyrean Primordius obtained the Grandmist Spirit Bead, his essence gathering system cultivation had already reached the World King boundary. But, he hadn't started body transformation yet at all; he had started everything from zero.

Not only was this road of martial arts one that defied the heavens, but Empyrean Primordius had also missed the best opportunity for him to cultivate body transformation. The difficulty of the road he took afterwards could be imagined.

Even so, Empyrean Primordius had finally relied on the heaven-defying effects of the Grandmist Spirit Bead and his own prodigious talent to break into the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace. But, Empyrean Primordius hadn't opened too many Dao Palaces. At that time, his essence gathering system cultivation was the extreme Empyrean realm, but his Nine Stars of the Dao Palace had only opened four or five palaces. His body transformation cultivation was far inferior to his essence gathering cultivation and his body transformation technique only had a limited ability to enhance his combat strength.

In comparison, Lin Ming had a Divine Lord realm cultivation and had opened a single star of the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace.

Currently, his body transformation cultivation was higher than his essence gathering system cultivation. It was similar to giving a child a well-crafted and accurate crossbow, making that child's lethal killing ability to rise to an all new level. Even a strong and robust man could still be severely wounded or shot dead by an accurate arrow.

Therefore, Lin Ming was able to cross two large boundaries in the essence gathering system and contend with an ordinary World King!

As for the Magic Cube, its abilities seemed to surpass even those of the Grandmist Spirit Bead. It was able to ignore the protection of the flesh and directly exterminate an enemy's soul.

But, the true strength of the Magic Cube wasn't its ability to directly extinguish a person's soul and increase Lin Ming's combat strength. Rather, the true strength of the Magic Cube lay in its ability to cleanse a person's soul of its spirit mark, turning it into pure memories that could be freely absorbed without needing to worry that one would fall into madness! This heaven-defying effect was perfectly suited for plundering the cultivation methods of others!

The cultivation methods of the martial world couldn't be passed on orally but had to be passed on through cultivation method jade slips. This was because cultivation method jade slips were far too complex and couldn't be fully explained in words alone.

However, with the Magic Cube, Lin Ming was able to completely accept and inherit any martial artist's cultivation methods. This even included their attainments and experiences in those cultivation methods!

Thus, Lin Ming could cultivate at an astronomical speed. When combined with his superior perception, the speed of his progress could only be described as rising 10,000 miles in a single day!

Besides cultivation methods, almost everything else was

applicable. This included divine runic arts, alchemy, array formations, refining technique, any many other skills. Not only could he inherit all of their knowledge but he could inherit all of their experience!

And what Lin Ming needed to do was to constantly practice, thoroughly mastering this knowledge and reviewing these experiences, fusing those memories into his body until they became instinctual. This method of studying and speed of learning was simply mind-boggling, truly heaven-defying!

The divine runic arts that took others dozens of years to learn would only take Lin Ming several months of practice!

It could be said that when Lin Ming had reached the Divine Lord boundary and gained the ability to activate the Magic Cube, he had silently undergone a dreadful transformation, one that no one knew about!

As Lin Ming grew stronger he would be able to kill stronger masters and swallow their memories!

And the more memories Lin Ming swallowed, the faster his cultivation would rise and the stronger he would become!

As long as he had enough time, Lin Ming's strength would grow like a snowball rolling down a snowy mountain, rapidly growing! He would eventually become a perfectly versatile genius, skilled in all aspects!

Thus, although the Grandmist Spirit Bead was also a priceless treasure to Lin Ming, during his youth, the use of the Grandmist Spirit Bead was far inferior to the help of the Magic Cube.

From what he knew, the Grandmist Spirit Bead focused on the mortal body and was able to produce endless medicines that surpassed the rank of transcendent divine pills. But, transcendent divine pills were still something that Lin Ming could find if he went searching for lucky chances, wandering through danger

zones, or he might even be able to purchase them.

However, soul fragments from the Magic Cube were different. This would save a massive amount of cultivation time for Lin Ming, and what Lin Ming needed the most right now was time.

Lin Ming closed his eyes in meditation, restoring his divine soul to its peak state. Then, he began to swallow Torchriver's ownerless soul.

These were the complete memories of an ordinary World King. The amount of information stored within it reached unimaginable levels!

When Lin Ming was in the lower realms, he had only absorbed small soul fragments. Moreover, the past masters of these soul fragments didn't surpass Holy Lords before they had died. Even so, to the Lin Ming of that time, these soul fragments placed a tremendous burden on his divine soul.

Swallowing these ownerless memories was like cutting open his head and stuffing in a massive amount of information. Because there was too much information and it was far too complex and diverse, Lin Ming had felt as if his head would explode. This wasn't something that the average person was able to withstand.

Fortunately, during Lin Ming's nine years in Tragic Death Valley, he had cultivated the Divine Mist Heart Mantra and his soul force was no longer comparable to how it was in the past. Although abruptly absorbing the memories of an ordinary World King was extremely difficult, it wasn't to the degree where it would instantly shatter his spiritual sea.

It had to be known that Torchriver had lived for nearly a million years. Moreover, a World King had an extremely sharp memory and they were able to memorize things very clearly and in much detail. As these memories accumulated over time, the total quantity of them was simply unimaginable!

When Lin Ming let open his spiritual sea, these memories rushed into him like endless waves from a dam that broke apart. Even though Lin Ming was already prepared, he was nearly washed away in this deluge of memories and his divine soul almost lost!

He hurriedly guarded his mind, summoning a battle spirit sword and sending it howling out!

Kacha!

Torchriver's ownerless soul was chopped to pieces by Lin Ming's battle spirit!

Lin Ming swept through these soul fragments at a frightening speed, immediately discarding large numbers of useless soul fragments.

These included Torchriver's life experiences, his dealings with others, his friends, foes, and so forth.

There were also a great number of memories from when Torchriver lured, raped, and intimidated young girls. All of these were discarded by Lin Ming.

However, upon seeing these memories, Lin Ming thought more and more that this Torchriver died a deserving death. He had simply ruined far too many young girls. After being raped by him, many of these young girls had been savagely tortured to death. He had even gone into the world of mortals, disguising himself as a bandit rapist and violating young girls from all over. The youngest of these was even 12-13 years old.

For such a disgustingly immoral despoiler to reach this level, it was truly a rare sight.

Different people had different pursuits in life. What Lin Ming pursued was the peak of martial arts and to stand on par with the heavens and earth. But this Torchriver pursued immortality so that he could enjoy new young girls forever, tasting them all whether it was now, a thousand years from now, or a million years

from now.

Torchriver's ownerless memories were quickly chopped into hundreds upon hundreds of pieces. Like this, 99% of the memories were thrown away by Lin Ming.

The only remaining memories were those related to cultivation method inheritances, divine runic arts, and alchemy.

But upon reviewing Torchriver's cultivation methods, Lin Ming was stunned. Torchriver had over 100 different cultivation methods and even a complete transcendent divine might.

With the status of an ordinary World King, it was very difficult to ever hope of learning a complete transcendent divine might. But, as a divine runic master, Torchriver was wealthier than some Great World Kings. By spending a massive amount of wealth he was able to obtain this transcendent divine might. And, what left Lin Ming speechless was that this transcendent divine might was called Heavenly Extreme Bliss; it was a dual cultivation method.

Out of Torchriver's 100 some cultivation methods, over 70 of them were related to dual cultivation. He had really taken the road of obscenity to the limit.

Lin Ming threw away most of these cultivation methods. He simply couldn't be bothered with looking at these low level ones. But, it was too wasteful if this complete transcendent divine might was lost like this.

Thinking about this, he kept the Heavenly Extreme Bliss.

At this time, Lin Ming seemed to realize something. He momentarily stopped absorbing Torchriver's soul fragments.

Then, Lin Ming took the spatial ring from Torchriver and crushed it. A massive amount of bottles, jars, pill boxes, and all sorts of things came flying out.

Among the mess was a pink jade slip that Lin Ming grabbed. This pink jade slip was the complete cultivation method jade slip for

Heavenly Extremely Bliss!

Torchriver had used several hundred thousands of years of time accumulate a massive amount of wealth through his career as a divine runic master. Then, in addition to a mind-boggling lucky chance that he obtained in a mystic realm, he had traded all of that for this complete transcendent divine might jade slip!

This caused Lin Ming to sigh. In terms of obscenity, Torchriver had done everything in his power to reach the peak!

“Mm? What is that?” Xiao Moxian watched as Lin Ming temporarily withdrew from absorbing memories and then specifically took out the jade slip. She could immediately feel that this jade slip wasn’t ordinary.

“Uh... this is... a complete transcendent divine might...”

Lin Ming dryly coughed and awkwardly gesticulated.

“A complete transcendent divine might jade slip?” Xiao Moxian was startled. “An ordinary World King had this sort of thing!? Not even Tian Mingzi had one!”

Tian Mingzi only had two incomplete transcendent divine mights. Otherwise, he wouldn’t have entered Demondawn Heavenly Palace to study the Heaven Absorbing Demon Art.

“That’s right. Divine runic masters are ridiculously rich. This jade slip was obtained by another World King in a mystic realm, but after that World King tried practicing this cultivation method to 60-70%, he realized that it didn’t fit him too well. The World King took it out to sell, and in order to obtain this jade slip, Torchriver paid a heart-bleeding price, trading half of his lifetime savings for it.”

“I see... can I see what sort of jade slip that is?” Xiao Moxian laughed and took the jade slip from Lin Ming’s hands.

Chapter 1555 – Learning Skills

Xiao Moxian happily began to search through the contents within the jade slip, but after she saw what was inside she was left completely stunned. The descriptions of the cultivation method were extremely graphic and exceedingly pornographic.

This was actually a dual cultivation method.

Xiao Moxian blushed. She sputtered, saying, “Bleh, just what sort of Emphyrean was this? I can’t believe that the summary of their lifetime’s studies is this sort of thing.”

Lin Ming awkwardly coughed. “This is a cultivation method formed by husband and wife Emphyreans who took the sexual road... the two of them were peerless geniuses of their time and both became Emphyreans together.

Lin Ming had scanned through Torchriver’s memories and knew what the origin of this cultivation method was.

For a husband and wife to cultivate to the Emphyrean realm together was an extremely rare sight. Emphyreans were already rare in the martial world; an Emphyrean Holy Land might not even be able to train an Emphyrean successor in tens of millions of years, and for a couple to reach the Emphyrean boundary together was far rarer than that. For instance, Emphyrean Demondawn and the Monster Emperor only had World Kings as wives.

“Cultivate into Emphyreans together? Heh, Lin Ming, we must become True Divinities together!”

Xiao Moxian suddenly said, stating her goal. She wanted to become a True Divinity, and in her opinion it wasn’t difficult at all for Lin Ming to accomplish this. For him, the realm of True Divinity might even be underestimating him.

Xiao Moxian was filled with anticipation as she thought of cultivating into True Divinities with Lin Ming. Perhaps, they

would leave behind an eternal story of love and adventure, one that would be spoken about by the future generations, just like Empyrean Divine Seal!

“Alright.”

Lin Ming chuckled. In truth, his goal surpassed that of a True Divinity. He wanted to surpass a True Divinity and reach the peak of all martial arts.

Xiao Moxian grinned and put away the Heavenly Extreme Bliss jade slip. This jade slip was only good as reference material for Xiao Moxian; she wasn't satisfied with taking the path of others. When she had the ability to do so, she would carve out her own cultivation path. Only like this would she be able to surpass those who came before her.

At this time, Lin Ming had reentered the soul space and continued to absorb Torchriver's memory fragments. Now he was about to absorb the most essential part – memories of the divine runic arts and alchemy!

This was the main reason that Lin Ming had killed Torchriver.

Torchriver had already reached the last years of his life and had fallen into a demented state, ready to die at any moment. He had lost all value, and in this situation, there was no one that would bother to provoke someone who had once been a World King and was even now a half-step World King.

As for him ruining the lives of countless young women, there were even fewer people that cared about this. When a martial artist began slaughtering, sometimes they would exterminate entire cities. They could destroy what they wanted and no one would chase after this; this was a brutal world where strength reigned supreme. Besides the Heavenly Dao, there were no laws that stood above martial arts.

For a time, images of runes and array formations rushed into Lin

Ming's mind.

Torchriver had been a divine runic master and alchemist for several hundred thousands of years. Although he was a sinful person, his accomplishments in divine runic arts and alchemy were truly worthy of respect!

After all, he had once been an Elder of the Divine Runic Masters Guild, and was a true sixth grade divine runic master!

It had to be known that in the Divine Runic Masters Guild, an eighth grade divine runic master was a legend and ninth grade divine runic masters were ancient myths that only existed billions of years ago. It could be said that a seventh grade divine runic master was the highest level there was, and if one had such ability, they could even become Guild President of the Divine Runic Masters Guild!

If one had to forcefully equate ranks of divine runic masters with the cultivation ranks of a martial artist, then a seventh grade divine runic master would be equal to an Empyrean. And in fact, there were many divine runic masters that had the strength of an Empyrean!

A sixth grade divine runic master was equal to a World King. Outstanding sixth grade divine runic masters were similar to Great World Kings.

Torchriver was a sixth grade divine runic master, and 100,000 years ago, his cultivation had been that of an ordinary World King.

A fifth grade divine runic master was equal to a Holy Lord.

A fourth grade divine runic master was equal to a Divine Lord.

A third grade divine runic master was equal to Divine Transformation.

Even so, the truth was that a third or fourth grade divine runic master was far more precious than a comparable martial artist of that boundary.

Divine Transformation realm powerhouses could be found everywhere, but third grade divine runic masters had a considerable amount of status. If a third grade divine runic master were a bit younger than average, proving that they had a bright future ahead of them, there would be many great influences that would try to win them over.

Yue Liuxing's senior-apprentice brother was in this type of situation. He had studied the divine runic arts for only several dozen years, and now he had become a third grade divine runic master. Although he was only at the third grade, there were many leaders of large influences that were polite to him, because there was a chance that he could become an Elder of the Divine Runic Masters Guild in the future.

That was a truly incredible person.

As Lin Ming scanned more and more memories, a huge amount of information piled up in his mind. He felt as if a massive steel weight was wildly smashing into his spiritual sea!

Lin Ming grit his teeth, resisting this mind-tearing pain as he slowly reorganized Torchriver's memories.

These memories contained a massive amount of experiences concerning alchemy and divine runic arts that Torchriver had accumulated over hundreds of thousands of years.

Although Torchriver was a lustful villain, there was no doubting his specialized skills. One could even say that he was considerably talented in divine runic arts and alchemy, otherwise it was impossible for him to have become a sixth grade divine runic master, eighth grade alchemist!

Torchriver was also well aware that the divine runic arts were the foundation for his pursuit of comfort, women, and immortality!

Torchriver had an amazingly sharp memory. He was able to

clearly remember every young girl that he had abused in the last several hundred thousands of years. But, beyond that, he was also able to clearly remember the process, details, and experiences of all the alchemy and divine runic arts he had done!

Countless experiments, whether they had been failures or successes, had consumed a massive amount of precious materials or hard work. This was the summary of all his experiences and the experiences of his predecessors. It was all invaluable data!

It had to be known that although a divine runic master made a great deal of money, they also burnt through money just as fast. The materials they used often cost several hundred million origin energy runes. If they failed, all of that would vanish into nothing, completely wasted!

To raise a single divine runic master would require a large influence to invest the entirety of their financial resources. For a single person to become a divine runic master alone, that was simply far too difficult.

Every divine runic master had their own unique take on the divine runic arts, and every now and then they would suddenly have strange and bizarre ideas. If they wanted to put these ideas into practice they had to undergo countless revisions and deliberations, because every new idea meant new investments of materials. And of these ideas, over 99% would fail.

But, even failure meant that they would gain more experiences and knowledge from these defeats. And once they succeeded, even if they only succeeded a little bit, this would mean an astonishing new amount of wealth. This success would become some divine runic masters' ultimate secret skill, something they would never pass onto anyone else!

This was inevitable. After all, researching new ideas simply cost far too many resources.

In addition, the Divine Runic Masters Guild was not a single,

unified obelisk. Within the guild, many divine runic masters would compete against each other for resources. They would invest their resources into new studies, and whatever new information they gained, they wouldn't pass it on to anyone, not even their own apprentices. In this case, the hundreds of thousands of years of memories that Lin Ming absorbed, and all of the experiences and knowledge that went with them, was simply unable to be measured with mere wealth!

In particular, unlike other divine runic arts apprentices, Lin Ming learnt all of this in a short period of time. Other apprentices would take dozens or hundreds of years, flattering and helping their master and having to also show a great deal of skill before they were taught anything worthwhile. Even then, only when their master retired and had a foot in the coffin would they decide to pass on the essence of their life's studies. But at this time, their apprentice wouldn't be young either.

And those that had the qualifications to flatter their masters and learn true abilities were all direct disciples of divine runic masters, like Yue Liuxing's senior-apprentice brother, Luo Yubai. As for brother and sister duo Yue Liuxing and Yue Qifeng, they wouldn't even see their master more than five times in a month, so what guidance could they possibly seek?

Every divine runic master would have more or less a dozen or even dozens of 'unique skills'. And now, all of Torchriver's unique skills had been completely learned by Lin Ming!

What Lin Ming had to do was thoroughly digest all of these experiences and attainments, practicing them until they became natural movements to him. No matter how much knowledge he had, it was useless if his hands and feet couldn't follow his mind.

Xiao Moxian activated Primordius Heavenly Palace's time enchantment, increasing the flow of time to a 20:1 ratio. Within this time enchantment, Lin Ming constantly recalled Torchriver's memories.

After a month passed, Lin Ming had fully carved the hundreds of thousands of years of Torchriver's memories into his spiritual sea, making them completely his.

After finishing all of this, Lin Ming let out a long breath of relief. He hadn't rested for a single moment in this entire month and his temples were pained, he had deep headaches, and his entire body was soaked with sweat.

Lin Ming then rested in meditation for a full 10 hours, slowly restoring himself.

As he opened his eyes, his vision gleamed with a bright light, shining with intelligence!

He knew that the step he took had been the right one. By absorbing the memories of a divine runic master, the advantages he obtained could be imagined!

This had saved Lin Ming dozens and hundreds of years of back-breaking work!

All of this was thanks to the heaven-defying abilities of the Magic Cube. Otherwise, it would have been unimaginably difficult for Lin Ming to study divine runic arts and alchemy!

But, just Torchriver's divine runic arts were not enough.

Lin Ming wasn't satisfied with this alone. He studied the divine runic arts and alchemy in order to pave the road for his Nine Stars of the Dao Palace. After all, unlike Empyrean Primordius, Lin Ming didn't possess the endless essence of the Grandmist Spirit Bead. Lin Ming could only refine pills through alchemy, and the pills required for the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace, in particular the last several stars, would be far too difficult for a mere sixth grade divine runic master. He would need to be at least a seventh grade divine runic master!

Torchriver had only been a sixth grade divine runic master. In the future, he would only serve as reference to Lin Ming. Since

these memories would all be reference materials, Lin Ming didn't mind having too many of them.

“Come, let's go to where Heaven's Secret said the second divine runic master is.”

As Lin Ming spoke, a thick killing intent sparked in his eyes. The second divine runic master was even easier for him to kill. He couldn't help but admire the work of Heaven's Secret. If it wasn't for their information then he would never have been able to find so many skilled divine runic masters that had also lost the protection of any great influences.

After receiving Primordius Heavenly Palace, Lin Ming brought along the many young girls that had been imprisoned by Torchriver and flew straight to the southeast. His destination was only a million miles away; it wouldn't be long before he arrived.

Chapter 1556 – Eternal Glory Cult Leader

Over a million miles southeast of Divine Rune City, there was a grand and vibrant mountain range called the Dragon Union Mountain. And within Dragon Union Mountain was a sect that had been founded a mere 100,000 years ago, called the Eternal Glory Cult.

The Eternal Glory Cult had only had two leaders so far, both of them dragons amongst people. However, what was unfortunate was that the first leader had perished in a mystic realm, a story of a man who had died at the prime of his life.

At present, the second Eternal Glory Cult Leader had only commanded the Eternal Glory Cult for a mere thousand years. But in this thousand years of time, the Eternal Glory Cult had rapidly expanded. The new leader was young and filled with promise, with a halo of future wonders to him. Many influences from all over wanted to be on good terms with the Eternal Glory Cult.

Now the Eternal Glory Cult was a peak Holy Land. Within 10,000 years, they had hopes of growing into an ordinary World King Holy Land.

“Eternal glory shines supreme, existing as the heavens!”

In the great square that lay before the doors of the church of the Eternal Glory Cult, over 10,000 people were lying prostrate in worship. These were all disciples of the Eternal Glory Cult, and in the revered seat above the church, a young man in five-colored royal robes was regally sitting, enjoying the worship of these ten thousand plus people.

The Eternal Glory Cult was not just a sect, but also a ‘religion’!

The greatest difference between a sect and a religion was that a sect used inheritances as the core of their foundation while a religion used certain teachings and beliefs as the core of their

foundation instead.

Now, the young man sitting in the revered seat was the Eternal Glory Cult Leader. He was the ultimate faith of countless disciples, a being equivalent to god in their eyes.

These disciples constantly went out to preach and find new followers on missionary expeditions. These believers were all loyal to this young man, and the fanatical ones were willing to die for him.

This young cult leader possessed not just outstanding talent but he was also a divine runic master.

He had refused the approaches of countless large influences trying to win him over and prop up his sect. This was because he had great ambitions and was unwilling to bow down before anyone. He wanted to be the ultimate master of his fate, ruling over this world of his!

But at this time, this young man felt his heart turn cold. Suddenly, without warning, a killing intent beyond his understanding locked onto him. As his complexion changed, he immediately leapt upwards!

Bang!

The seat that the young cult leader had been sitting on was destroyed by a horrifying spear light. This caused the expressions of everyone in the square to rapidly change.

A young man and woman appeared in the air, seeming as if they had come from nowhere. They were Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian.

“You are the sixth grade divine runic master, Chifeng?”

Lin Ming looked over this Eternal Glory Cult Leader. From appearances, this cult leader didn't seem too old, but the truth was far different.

“Who are you?” The man's complexion turned cold. This

unknown other party was exuding thick killing intent; he had clearly come here with no good intentions.

“Chifeng, peak Holy Lord cultivation, outstanding martial talent, his strength shows scorn for all other martial artists of his realm. In the divine runic arts, his talent is similarly peerless. With his peak Holy Lord cultivation, he managed to become a sixth grade divine runic master. He can be called a truly rare talent!

“However, this person’s character is cruel and sinister. He has great ambitions and is unwilling to yield to any influence or any person. He wishes to found his own sect and rule the world. He loves the worship and admiration of people and wants to become the god of countless others.

“In a mystic realm danger zone, in order to obtain an ancient inheritance, Chifeng killed his own master – the first leader of the Eternal Glory Cult. Afterwards, he took his master’s place and became the second leader of the Eternal Glory Cult and began to secretly practice the ancient inheritance he obtained in that mystic realm.

“And in order to practice this ancient inheritance, one needed the power of ‘belief’. Thus, Chifeng turned and developed the Eternal Glory Cult into his own personal religion, drawing in innumerable believers so that he could use their prayers and worship to cultivate his own martial arts! But, what these followers of his don’t know is that once their power of belief is sucked out, their life origin energy will also be lost, causing their own cultivations to be hindered...”

Lin Ming loudly spoke, pouring true essence into his voice. These were all words passed to him by Heaven’s Secret.

Upon hearing these words, Chifeng’s face turned darker than water.

“What utter nonsense!”

“Hah, if you don’t want others to know about your deeds then you should have never done them. During the adventure into that mystic realm, it wasn’t just you and your master who went; there were many other witnesses. Unfortunately, your master was blind and accepted a disciple like you. Not just that, but in order to consolidate your status as the cult leader, you even married his daughter. What a pity; his daughter never knew that her father died beneath the hands of her husband!”

After Lin Ming learned the Divine Mist Heart Mantra he developed even sharper perceptions of soul force. As he spoke he could clearly feel fluctuations in Chifeng’s divine soul. With this, Lin Ming was able to confirm that the information Heaven’s Secret gave to him was more or less correct!

To sell this information for several hundred millions of origin energy runes, it naturally had a certain guarantee of authenticity!

“Chifeng, your talent is outstanding. Whether it is divine runic arts or alchemy, you have wonderful attainments, and even your martial arts cultivation is the same. But too bad for you, you have made a grave mistake. You were far too arrogant, and before you were able to spread your wings, you became far too hasty and tried to train in your devil arts and found your own religion. Because you were unwilling to serve under others, you rejected the invitation of all the other great influences and thus you have lost their protection. Now, this day shall be the day of your death!”

Lin Ming drew out the Phoenix Blood Spear and pointed it straight towards Chifeng’s head.

And at this time, the many followers of the Eternal Glory Cult had become enraged. They soared up in droves, surrounding Lin Ming.

“Just who are you!? Since you dare to offend our god, your punishment will be your life!”

“You actually dared to slander our cult leader and even the past

cult leader! You will burn in the fires of hell for a thousand years before your bones turn to ash!”

The followers of the Eternal Glory Cult all drew out their weapons and rushed towards Lin Ming. Their belief and worship of the Eternal Glory Cult was deeply ingrained into their hearts and minds. For Lin Ming to say such heretical words in front of them, this naturally touched their reverse scale.

“What a bunch of idiots! You deserve to have all your strength sucked dry!” Xiao Moxian coldly snorted at the actions of these foolish believers.

And at this time, Chifeng laughed. “The stupid ones are you! With your mere Divine Lord realm cultivation you actually came here to try and trick my people! As my followers have said, you will burn in the fires of hell for a thousand years as your bones turn to ash!”

As Chifeng spoke, Xiao Moxian suddenly attacked. Her body disappeared in a series of afterimages as she launched towards Chifeng at inconceivable speeds!

After her cultivation stepped into the Divine Lord realm and she completed her first phoenix nirvana, Xiao Moxian’s strength had become absolutely terrifying!

“Attack together!”

As the many followers saw Xiao Moxian move, all of them prepared to attack her. But suddenly, an invisible force field came shrouding down over them. A boundless and primal aura spread out in all directions, causing them to freeze where they were, unable to move a single step forwards.

This was Lin Ming’s grandmist space. After pouring grandmist energy into the grandmist space, these followers of the Eternal Glory Cult that were only at the Divine Lord and early Holy Lord realms found it impossible to move even the slightest bit. They

were like insects caught in a spider's web; the more they struggled, the tighter the force field would bind them!

And this force field affected not just the followers but also Chifeng!

Chifeng's complexion changed. He revolved his energy to the limit, wanting to break through the shackles of this force field. But by now, Xiao Moxian had already rushed in front of him!

Her body shimmered with a dazzling black light. The back of her clothes tore open, revealing a pair of phoenix wings that unfurled into the skies. At the same time, Xiao Moxian also burnt her phoenix blood essence!

After experience her phoenix nirvana, she had gained the most important ability of her bloodline; she could burn her blood essence without harming her life source.

Once Lin Ming opened the Gate of Life, he had gained the ability to regenerate his blood essence. But, there were many limits to this ability. Once he burned 50% of his blood essence, he would cause permanent damage and losses to his blood vitality. And, after burning his blood essence he required several days to restore himself. Thus, Lin Ming didn't freely burn it.

However, Xiao Moxian wasn't bound by these worries. After experiencing her first nirvana, she could burn up to 70% of her blood essence without any negative side effects. Moreover, as she went through more and more nirvanas in the future, this 70% limit would slowly disappear until she finally reached the boundary where she could infinitely burn her blood essence. Not just that, but after burning her blood essence, Xiao Moxian restored herself at a pace that far outstripped Lin Ming.

In a way, Xiao Moxian burning her blood essence was similar to Lin Ming opening the Heretical God Force. She could do it whenever she wished.

As she pulled out her whip, she slashed out at Chifeng's face!

Seeing with his own eyes as Xiao Moxian shot towards him with a dreadful momentum, Chifeng's complexion changed. He never imagined that Lin Ming would have such a strange force field, causing him to weaken by 50%.

In this life or death moment, nine divine runic symbols appeared in front of Chifeng. These nine divine runic symbols began to burn together before gathering into an array diagram that blocked Xiao Moxian's whip.

Peng!

With an explosive shattering sound the array diagram broke apart. Chifeng took this change to roar out loud and fly away!

"You are indeed worthy of being a sixth grade divine runic master with such a lifesaving card. Someone with a peak Holy Lord cultivation can actually resist Xian'er's all-out strike even while being covered by the grandmist space."

This was the second divine runic master that Lin Ming had faced. Both of these divine runic masters could be called loners. The divine runic symbols they had were mostly drawn up by themselves, but they still held such power behind them.

Chifeng took out another two divine runic symbols. He slapped them onto his body, causing them to transform into a bright blue set of ice armor. At the same time, his fingers flashed and with a loud shout a fire dragon was shot out by him, impacting towards Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian.

This fire dragon was Chifeng's vital true flame. Many alchemists would subdue a Fire Elemental for their own use, and now that Chifeng faced such powerful enemies, he had summoned the Fire Elemental from within his body. This was also one of his final trump cards.

Xiao Moxian chuckled. Facing this fire dragon, she didn't avoid

or dodge, but fired straight towards it!

Ca!

Her black wings danced forth like black sabers, cutting that fire dragon into several pieces. With a loud detonation, the fire dragon blew apart into smoke and ash!

Chifeng was left panic-stricken as he saw this. At the same time, despair began to rise in his heart. Just how did this young girl possess such strength? His all-out attack had actually been defeated by her as if she had been blowing out a candle?

“Waters fill the dragon king’s temple and fires light up the phoenix’s nest. If you want to play with fire in front of me then you might as well set yourself on fire instead!”

If one ignored the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace, Xiao Moxian wasn’t much weaker than Lin Ming. She wasn’t someone that a peak Holy Lord was able to handle; this was true even for an outstanding existence amongst peak Holy Lords. Moreover, for this opponent to use flames to attack her, it was like he wanted to die.

Chapter 1557 – Thorough Mastery

“Let me show you what true fire is.”

Xiao Moxian spread out her hands and ghostly black flames leapt between them, beating like a heart and peacefully burning. Although these flames didn't seem too hot, the surrounding void began to distort because of these flames, showing just how hot they were.

Chifeng's complexion changed as he saw this. “You've already approached the seventh level Concept, to bring Virtual Fire into reality!”

These flames contained virtual flames and true flames. Once these flames reached the limit in their fusion, the Concept of Fire would enter into the seventh level!

Currently, Xiao Moxian had yet to step into the true seventh level Concept, but even so, this was an extremely exaggerated accomplishment. There were many fire-attribute cultivation method World Kings that couldn't compare with Xiao Moxian.

Kacha!

Chifeng's icy armor was blown away by Xiao Moxian's black flames, with half of his body being charred black in the process. However, he still struggled to the end. He reached out, wanting to pull another divine runic symbol from his spatial ring and bet his life, but at this time, the grandmist space came shrouding down over him, locking down his movements once more.

Meanwhile, Xiao Moxian's whip vanished into dozens of afterimages that formed a cone as they came slashing down!

“Ahh!”

Chifeng was frightened out of his mind. He desperately tried to summon true essence to break free from Lin Ming's force field shackles, but beneath the phantoms of these dozens of whip

attacks his protective true essence instantly collapsed as dozens of bloody holes were pierced through him!

And at this time, only then was Chifeng able to pull out a second set of divine runic symbols from his spatial ring. But then, his face paled and he fell downwards with a scream!

Beneath the joint attacks of Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian, the originally far weaker Chifeng simply didn't have the ability to resist. The ending to this battle had already been doomed to be one-sided from the start.

In terms of strength, Chifeng was still slightly worse than the completely exhausted Torchriver.

“Take him away!”

Lin Ming indifferently said. Xiao Moxian flicked her hand and her whip tightly wrapped around Chifeng.

“What do you want to do with all these followers?” Xiao Moxian asked as an afterthought.

Lin Ming replied, “Don't bother with them. If they can't tell right from wrong then there will be no future for them in the Asura Road. They will all die sooner or later.”

As Lin Ming spoke, his body turned into a beam of light that hurtled into the skies, with Xiao Moxian following right behind.

This was the second divine runic master they had captured: the sixth grade divine runic master, seventh grade alchemist Chifeng!

Although this person was weaker than the cruel and sinful sex fiend Torchriver, in terms of sinisterness, he actually far surpassed him. He had secretly killed his own master in a mystic realm for mere treasures. This sort of heartless decision was almost the same as Tian Mingzi killing the old Verdant Feather World King; this was something Lin Ming hated the most.

And even worse was that after his master had died, Chifeng had

married his master's daughter in order to consolidate authority around him. As her heart had been breaking over the death of her father, Chifeng had appeared and comforted her, even propping up the sect by himself. In this sort of situation, it was simple for Chifeng to capture the heart of his master's daughter.

Afterwards, Chifeng had made up all sorts of lies to trick the people and establish his own religion, absorbing the power of faith from his followers to cultivate his devil arts. Although these were heinous actions, they weren't comparable to what he had done before.

In short, this person was deserving of death!

And most important was that killing Chifeng wasn't difficult at all. This sort of genius actually wanted to establish his own sect and had refused all outside help. On this alone, Lin Ming greatly admired Heaven's Secret. For them to have such accurate information was truly remarkable. Lin Ming even suspected that perhaps the cultivation method manual that they used to gather information was on the level of a transcendent divine might.

Lin Ming quickly exterminated Chifeng's soul and erased his spirit mark. Then, he swallowed down Chifeng's soul.

Chifeng wasn't too old. In terms of total amount of memories, he had far less than Torchriver, so it was easier for Lin Ming to absorb them. In Primordius Heavenly Palace's time enchantment, Lin Ming used only a single month to absorb all of these memories.

The reason that Chifeng was able to become a sixth grade divine runic master at the peak Holy Lord realm was all due to his own outstanding talent. However, in terms of the experiences he had accumulated, he was inferior to Torchriver. Even so, Chifeng had many unique ideas and a very wide range of thoughts that provided a great deal of inspirations to Lin Ming.

After Lin Ming killed Chifeng, he had killed two of the three divine runic masters that Heaven's Secret had told him about.

And, the last one was the simplest one.

This person was only a fifth grade divine runic master with an early Holy Lord cultivation. Killing him was extremely easy.

This person had originally been given a death sentence by a Divine Kingdom from the outer Asura Road. To avoid being hunted down, he had fled into the inner Asura Road. He was a solitary person with a strange and eccentric personality. He was cruel and diabolical, and didn't join any influence, not even the Divine Runic Masters Guild.

Lin Ming flew another 500,000 miles to the southwest. He placed the young girls that had been tortured by Torchriver in a mortal city, and then flew for several more hours before he found the third divine runic master.

There wasn't any difficulty in finding this person and Lin Ming also easily cut him down. Like this, the memories of three divine runic masters had been gathered up by Lin Ming!

Then, Lin Ming used three months within Primordius Heavenly Palace's time enchantment to complete a thorough mastery of all three divine runic masters' memories!

The divine runic arts and inscription technique were essentially the same thing, but the divine runic arts were far more complex.

Moreover, the uses of the divine runic arts were far wider than those of inscription technique!

The function of inscription technique was divided into four types: one was object inscription symbols that increased the power of weapons and armors, one was medicinal inscription symbols that increased the efficacy of pills, one was body inscription symbols that increased the might of the body, and the last were soul inscription symbols that increased the intensity of the soul.

Of these four inscription symbols, Lin Ming had only seen the first three; he had never studied the last kind.

However, divine runic arts not only had all the effects of inscription technique but their usage far outstripped it.

To turn stone into gold, water into oil, all of this was changing the structure of matter. Even changing the shape of a life form could be accomplished by the divine runic arts. A seventh grade divine runic master could even produce divine runic symbols that transformed a martial artist into a pig or dog.

In the Divine Runic Masters Guild, there was a type of punishment where one was transformed into a pig or dog for a thousand years. The martial artist being punished would even retain their original intelligence the entire time.

To have the intelligence of a sentient being while having the body of a pig or dog, this was a truly sickening experience.

In addition, divine runic symbols could even be used in battle.

For instance, Torchriver and Chifeng had both used divine runic symbols to create barriers. They could have even formed offensive fireballs, wind blades, ice arrows, and so forth.

The divine runic symbols produced by a grandmaster could even be used multiple times as long as one poured enough true essence into them.

The divine runic arts were extremely broad in their use; this was because they were the manifestation of the Asura Heavenly Dao Laws.

“Xian’er, I must close up for a period of time to practice my divine runic arts and alchemy. Let’s return to Divine Runic City first!”

After Lin Ming killed the three divine runic masters he had also obtained their spatial rings. These divine runic masters were considerably wealthy to begin with, and this was especially true for Chifeng; he had accumulated a great deal of wealth through his religion.

Origin energy runes were useful, but the most important thing was that these spatial rings held a massive amount of alchemy materials and divine runic arts materials. These materials were perfectly suited for Lin Ming to practice.

However, the grade of these materials was a bit high for the current Lin Ming. Lin Ming had to start practicing with the most basic of materials before he advanced, and these materials were easily found in the bustling Divine Rune City.

Lin Ming controlled Primordius Heavenly Palace to immediately fly back to Divine Rune City.

Divine Rune City had markets that were dedicated to selling divine runic arts materials. But, if one wished to purchase a massive amount of divine runic arts and alchemy materials, the Divine Runic Masters Guild was the most convenient place to do so.

If one was a divine runic master that was registered to the Divine Runic Masters Guild then they could receive a 10% discount. However, Lin Ming wasn't registered.

As Lin Ming was purchasing materials at the Divine Runic Masters Guild, he pulled out a long list of materials he needed and then bumped into someone he had met before.

A fat old man in white robes with black patterns rounded the corner, wearing a strange eight-cornered hat.

“Uh...”

Lin Ming's expression stiffened and he subconsciously turned away. However, the old man had caught sight of him. The old man had extremely good memory and was able to instantly recognize Lin Ming.

This old man was the spiritas divine runic master vendor who had sold Lin Ming the broken jade during the first time he had come to the Divine Runic Masters Guild.

The spiritas vendor was extremely knowledgeable and shrewd, someone that could squeeze oil from sand. But, he had still been robbed blind by Lin Ming. That broken jade was far too special; besides Lin Ming himself, no one would have been able to recognize it.

As Lin Ming saw this old man, he was a bit suspicious. “This old geezer, he shouldn’t have noticed something strange afterwards, right...?”

The truth was that the transaction had already been completed, and even if the old man regretted it there was nothing he could do. Moreover, Lin Ming was strong in his own right and didn’t fear this old man.

“Oh, it’s you!”

The spiritas old man smiled at Lin Ming. From his expression, Lin Ming couldn’t tell whether or not he had regretted selling that broken jade.

“So it’s Senior, this is such a coincidence.”

Lin Ming hollowly laughed, pretending he had just seen this old man.

“Are you buying materials...?”

The spiritas old man glanced at the list in Lin Ming’s hand. He could make out the massive amount of low level materials. These were things that only low level inscription masters, apprentice divine runic masters, and low level alchemists would use.

Normally, when one first started out as a divine runic master, inscription master, or alchemist, they would buy these materials to practice. Of course, these materials were all relatively expensive, and without certain finances, it was impossible to afford them.

The materials on Lin Ming’s list alone were worth several hundred million origin energy runes. Although many of these materials were used by novices, they were still considerably

expensive. They weren't something that an ordinary divine runic arts apprentice would use. But, Lin Ming didn't care about this. What he cared about the most was their effects in helping him practice, and whether or not they could help him quickly raise his skill in divine runic arts and alchemy. Price was a secondary consideration.

The spiritas old man thoughtfully traced his chin. Then, he recalled the words that Lin Ming had said before, that he had wanted to become a divine runic master. The old man chuckled.

“You want to study divine runic arts and alchemy? Commendable spirit, commendable!”

A strange color appeared on Lin Ming's face. No matter how he heard it, these words were clearly ironic...

In particular, this spiritas old man was smiling so brightly that it appeared far too self-satisfied. Anyone who saw this would think his heart wasn't matching his words, and he was simply joking about...

Chapter 1558 – A Long Lost Feeling

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Lin Ming drily coughed, saying, “Junior is only trying, but as for whether or not my dreams will succeed, that will depend on whether or not I have talent in this aspect.”

“Haha, you’re quite optimistic. You seem to have just started learning the divine runic arts, or have you not even started yet?”

The spiritas old man smiled, stroking his beard.

“Mm...” Lin Ming gloomily nodded. This old spiritas geezer who had drowned himself in the divine runic arts for tens or even hundreds of thousands of years was able to approximate whether someone had just started learning the divine runic arts. This was a thought completely based on his intuition.

Moreover, when Lin Ming bought the broken jade he hadn’t even known about any of the materials that the old spiritas man was selling. If he said he was a divine runic apprentice or something like that, it would have been far too fake.

“Such perseverance! What wonderful perseverance!” The old spiritas man ‘praised’ yet again. Of course, this so-called praise was simply implying that Lin Ming was biting off more than he could chew, a daydreamer who fantasized too much.

However, with the old man’s smiling face that looked like a Buddha, an outsider simply wouldn’t be able to clearly tell what his meaning was.

“Speaking of the divine runic arts, the materials you want to buy are quite luxurious.” The old spiritas man took up the list of materials and sighed as he looked over it. “Ah, how rich! For you to

toss out so much money when you first start learning the divine runic arts, this is enough for two generations! You must have an Empyrean relative in your family...”

“Eh...” Lin Ming was at a loss for words. He simply didn’t reply.

“I say... would you like me to take you in as an apprentice?” The old spiritas man said, his eyes shining.

Lin Ming was stunned. Was there really such a wonderful matter in this world?

Although he didn’t need anyone to teach him, a divine runic master was extremely cautious in accepting any disciples to begin with. If a sixth grade divine runic master said they were accepting an apprentice, there would be countless people stepping over each other to grab that position. Even being a mere secret disciple would be a great honor.

Unfortunately, the higher rank a divine runic master was, the higher their standards in accepting an apprentice. Normally, a divine runic master would accept at most four or five disciples and wanting to become one of these apprentices was easier said than done!

Now, this old spiritas man actually said that he would take in Lin Ming as an apprentice; this left Lin Ming dumbfounded. “Could this old geezer think that I have some talent in the divine runic arts, so he developed thoughts of taking me in as his apprentice?”

Lin Ming felt that if he studied the divine runic arts, even if he didn’t have the heaven-defying abilities of the Magic Cube, his divine soul and perception were already considerably worthy of praise. But, to the spiritas, having a powerful divine soul and soul force was the most basic standard; this couldn’t be considered Lin Ming’s advantage.

As Lin Ming was wondering just what was happening, the old spiritas man’s next words nearly had Lin Ming choking on himself.

“As my apprentice, you would have to give me a similar amount of money every month. Of course, paying me in equivalent materials is even better!”

As the old spiritas man spoke, he put forth his hand and stretched out all five fingers.

“....”

Lin Ming wanted to curse out loud. So this old man wanted to take him in as an apprentice so that he could collect tuition expenses.

“This wily old fox, I knew that he wouldn’t be so kind.” Xiao Moxian said with a true essence sound transmission. Lin Ming also bitterly smiled in response, “It seems I overthought the situation. I was far too naïve.”

“Humph, this old man is so cheap. He probably isn’t even willing to teach his own apprentice, so how could he possibly teach strangers. No matter how I look at it, any apprentice he takes in is unlucky.”

Xiao Moxian criticized. All divine runic masters had a high opinion of themselves and valued themselves, but even this was divided into degrees. She had a premonition that this old man valued his knowledge to the point of death.

Seeing the old spiritas man’s hand still floating in front of his face, Lin Ming was left helpless. He slowly asked, “You shouldn’t be thinking of 500 million per month, right? You’re being far too greedy!”

“Smart boy. If you’re really the disciple of some great family then you should be a bit bolder. These materials you bought already cost 500 million, but if I teach you, the effect will be much better.”

The old spiritas man spoke in deep and mysterious tones. He handed a booklet to Lin Ming and said, “This is something I wrote myself, the ‘Secrets of Divine Runic Arts’. Here, take a look, it’s

free!”

Lin Ming’s lips twitched but he took the booklet without any expectations. Could something free really be any good?

However, looking at how thick this ‘Secrets of Divine Runic Arts’ was, it couldn’t be that everything inside was useless right? Perhaps there might be some insignificant shred of useful content within it.

Seeing Lin Ming accept the ‘Secrets of Divine Runic Arts’, the old spiritas man chuckled. “I think you’ll change your mind in a few months. At that time, come back and look for me, haha! I must say, you are a human and your talent doesn’t seem too outstanding to begin with, if it wasn’t an open-minded and generous person like myself, an ordinary divine runic master simply wouldn’t be willing to accept you. Luckily, you’ve met me...”

The old spiritas man said with a haughty air of superiority. Xiao Moxian couldn’t bear listening to this anymore, “Hey, just what are you saying! You have no idea what our talent is like!”

“Hehe, I can guess it more or less. It’s not like you know if I did or not.”

The old spiritas man traced his beard, “Remember to look for me if you change your mind. My surname is Xue. Just look for Grandmaster Xue and you’ll find me!”

“In any case... you aren’t short on money, are you?” Lin Ming suddenly asked as he remembered this. He remembered that this old man had only been willing to barter.

“Well, I’ve had something come up recently so I’m a bit tight on money. Moreover, although I said materials are the best, origin energy runes, nine sun jades, I accept all forms of currency. Do you think there is anyone that dislikes having more money?”

The old spiritas man’s eyebrow shot up as he spoke. He rubbed his fingers together in front of Lin Ming and then raised his fingers

again for an amount of origin energy runes.

This was truly more annoying the more one saw. Just as Xiao Moxian was unable to resist the impulse to slap him, she was pulled out of the hall by Lin Ming. They had already bought the materials they needed and there was no necessity to stay any longer.

500 million origin energy runes – the amount of materials that would buy could pile up into a mountain.

In these past days, Lin Ming was really spending money like tossing out water. As more and more origin energy runes were spent without earning anything in return, Lin Ming's wealth continued to shrink with every passing day.

Divine runic masters and alchemists were occupations where one used up money like they were burning it. The lowest level materials weren't cheap to begin with, and as one rose in the ranks, the materials would only become increasingly expensive. Although divine runic masters and alchemists were able to earn a great deal of money, they would always feel as if they lacked wealth. This sort of strange reverse phenomenon was especially reflected in the growth of divine runic masters.

But, for those divine runic masters that had plateaued, they were relatively wealthier. This was because they were already past the time of spending money to practice, and unless there was some great project incoming, they normally wouldn't be short on money.

“We have to find some way to earn resources. When I start to pave the road to the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace, the expenses will only increase, but I fear I'll be a poor man by then.”

As Lin Ming was thinking this, he and Xiao Moxian arrived at a divine runic master trading company.

“Two guests, what would you like?”

A young girl welcomed Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian.

“I want to rent a room for alchemy and divine runic arts for one year.”

Normally, an alchemist or divine runic master would have their own specialized alchemy chamber or divine runic arts chamber. This place would have array formations that would increase the chances of succeeding in refining pills or drawing up divine runic symbols.

Primordius Heavenly Palace didn't have these sorts of rooms and if Lin Ming were to build them they would require far too much time and effort. In order to practice at this time, renting a room was the most suitable choice.

“May I inquire as to what grade of room sir would like? We have the best heaven symbol rooms, the slightly better earth symbol rooms and profound symbol rooms, or the ordinary flowing water rooms.”

“The ordinary room is fine.” Lin Ming casually said. He didn't lack money in renting out a better room, but as someone that was just starting out he didn't want to depend too much on external factors. The worse the environment was, the more he would be able to practice his techniques.

“Very well. Guests, please come with me.”

The young girl brought Lin Ming to a plain stone chamber.

This stone chamber was a square room around 30-40 feet wide and long. There were several simple array formations inside that were used to increase the intensity of flames and increase a martial artist's perception. At the center was also a simple alchemy furnace as well as a blue stone divine runic table.

Here, Lin Ming planned to spend an entire year. Although it was possible to use a time enchantment to absorb the memories of divine runic masters, he couldn't practice divine runic arts or

alchemy within one. This was because the divine runic arts and alchemy required one to communicate with the Laws of the outside world and a time enchantment twisted the Laws within it.

Lin Ming didn't immediately start practicing alchemy or the divine runic arts. Rather, he pulled out the 'Secrets of Divine Runic Arts' that old man Xue had given him. After all, this thick booklet should have something interesting in it. Moreover, old man Xue himself was a respectable person with his own reputation to worry about. No matter how stingy he was, he shouldn't write a worthless book with no value at all to ruin his reputation... right?

Thinking this, Lin Ming opened the 'Secrets of Divine Runic Arts' and began skimming through it. But, he quickly discovered that he had been far too naïve yet again. He had seriously overestimated the moral nature of this old man Xue.

The beginning of this 'Secrets of Divine Runic Arts' indeed contained some practical knowledge and skills. But, at the most critical parts, it was entirely blank!

Then, this old man Xue would start writing again about entirely different skills and knowledge. But, as one approached the crucial point, it would become blank once more.

This repeated again and again without a single piece of real information offered. The entire booklet was simply to stir one's appetite for more. After Lin Ming closed the booklet, he couldn't help but curse, "Shit, I've never seen such garbage, this is ridiculous!"

"This old geezer is far too greedy! Wanting to gain the slightest advantage from him is like grabbing feathers from a flying goose, it's more difficult than ascending to heaven!" Xiao Moxian could have been said to have opened her eyes.

"He's already determined that I cannot learn the divine runic arts so he wants me to give him money. But, it seems he really is short on money currently. I have no idea what he is doing, or perhaps

he's always looking for profits to begin with."

Lin Ming shook his head, no longer thinking about it. He took out the divine runic pen from the blue stone divine runic table and then poured his origin energy into it. In that moment, he felt something he hadn't felt for a long time.

This sort of feeling was extremely familiar to Lin Ming; it even touched him a little.

After so many years he had finally picked up the inscription arts that he had left behind so long ago.

The days when Lin Ming was an inscription master were one of the most important sections of his road of martial arts. The inscription technique had been with him through these most difficult years when he first started learning martial arts.

He was even glad that because of the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace, he could pick up the inscription technique he had put down. This sort of feeling was similar to recalling the times of his youth. During those years, Lin Ming completed the most important transformation of his life. It was a time that he would never be able to forget...

Chapter 1559 – A Spring Rain

When Lin Ming was in the lower realms, he had been experienced with inscription technique for a long time; he had even dabbled in alchemy.

Now, attempting the divine runic arts wasn't strange at all.

He took out a material called a blue tongue orchid and slowly brought it floating up using his soul force. Then, he proceeded to extract the juice from it.

Just this small step wasn't easy at all. Because someone new to the divine runic arts would have difficulty controlling the release and pressure of their soul force, they would often have to try this step hundreds of times before having a single success.

And every failure was equal to throwing away a considerable amount of wealth.

When a martial artist first learned the divine runic arts, it was the same as burning away a ton of money. In the past, when Lin Ming was in the lower realms and studying inscription technique, in order to save money he hadn't practiced using materials at the start, but had instead used his true essence to replace materials in drawing up the symbols. Of course, this sort of practice method was very limited in its speed.

Fortunately, Lin Ming was much richer now so he didn't have to save in such a fashion.

Lin Ming focused his attention, directing a tiny bit of soul force into the blue tongue orchid to extract the juice from within it. At this time, a deep memory swelled forth from within him. This familiar feeling showed Lin Ming just how to use his soul force.

Of the three divine runic masters that Lin Ming had killed, no matter which one it was, they had completed this simple step millions of times already and were incomparably familiar with the

process. Thus, even though their spirit mark had been erased, this familiar feeling had lingered on in their ownerless memories, allowing Lin Ming to understand how to control the potency of his soul force from the start. This sort of feeling seemed as if it came naturally to him.

Chi-la!

The blue tongue orchid juice was dragged out by Lin Ming's soul force, forming all sorts of shapes in the air. From just this refined controlling ability alone, if Old Man Xue had seen this he definitely wouldn't believe that Lin Ming was a novice to the divine runic arts.

Lin Ming quickly picked up the divine runic pen and placed the pen tip into the drop of juice. As the pen tip filled with juice, Lin Ming moved his hands and rapidly drew a small rune in the air.

Although this rune was quickly drawn, if one didn't pay careful attention they wouldn't even have thought that Lin Ming had drawn it. The small rune trembled in the air before stabilizing.

This small rune was only the size of a grain of rice.

However, the moment that Lin Ming completed drawing up this rune he shook his head. The truth was that he had failed in the drawing process.

"I've used too much soul force; there are at least seven or eight flaws in this rune. Even though this was a tiny rune, wanting to draw it perfectly wasn't easy at all."

Under the guidance of the three divine runic masters' memories, Lin Ming was well aware of just where he messed up and also how to fix his mistakes. The reason he had failed was because his soul force wasn't able to completely align with his motions. As long as Lin Ming continued to endlessly practice and slowly gain more and more skill, his body would gradually remember this feeling.

Compared to Lin Ming, other divine runic master apprentices

would not have such treatment. Many times, they would have no idea where they had gone wrong and they would have to constantly consult with their master. But, their master likely had their own work to do and it was impossible for them to guide their apprentices around all day, personally teaching them hands-on.

If they were consulted too much, anyone would become annoyed. At this time, the apprentice would have to look to his own perception. If their perception was good then they could slowly look through their past experiences and find out where their mistakes had been.

If their perception was poor, then that simply meant they weren't fit to be a divine runic master.

Lin Ming tried again and again, always drawing up the same rune. If he could successfully draw up this rune then he would be far more proficient in drawing it up the second time; it wouldn't be as difficult as when he first attempted it.

Moreover, in the structure of these tiny runes, because of the differences in the processing of energy, the power of one's soul force, and whether one was skilled in harmonizing their movements, this would lead to differences of quality even in the same small rune. Between different divine runic masters there would be tremendous differences in the quality of the same rune. A grandmaster's rune would have effects several times better than that of a divine runic apprentice.

But, a complete divine runic symbol was composed of tens of thousands of these small runes. If every small rune was several times better, then once these differences accumulated then the overall effects of the divine runic symbol would be the difference between night and day.

Even though it was the same divine runic symbol, the divine runic symbol produced by an apprentice could just barely be used. But, the divine runic symbol of a grandmaster would sell for a

considerable price at an auction.

What Lin Ming needed to do now was strive for excellence and build a solid foundation, drawing up every rune as perfectly as he could.

Lin Ming wasn't satisfied with becoming a normal divine runic master. He wanted to become a grandmaster. Only then would he be able to build the foundation for practicing the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace.

Even through repeated failures, Lin Ming kept his calm and patience. He tried again and again, using up a massive amount of materials, but even so, he didn't care for this loss.

If an ordinary divine runic apprentice were to practice like Lin Ming then they would have already overdrawn their soul force. However, Lin Ming's soul force was extremely formidable to begin with, and with him having cultivated the Divine Mist Heart Mantra, he far surpassed most spirits. Even through these continuous defeats, Lin Ming could still trudge on.

Of course, such perseverance wasn't without limits. After Lin Ming practiced for a full night and day, he felt as if his head would split apart. The divine runic symbols that he drew continued to have mistakes, and after every one, Lin Ming felt as if he wouldn't be able to last much longer.

After finishing drawing up the last rune, Lin Ming felt a dizziness in his mind. He slumped over on a stone bed, his body worn out and aching.

Peng!

With a light cracking sound, the group of divine runic symbols floating in front of Lin Ming exploded in midair, turning into brilliant fireworks before they vanished.

As Lin Ming overdrew the strength of his divine soul, these divine runic symbols were unable to maintain their form. They

were naturally destroyed without Lin Ming's support.

Lin Ming didn't feel this was a loss at all. Although he had successfully drawn up these runes, they weren't perfect.

"Lin Ming, are you alright?"

Xiao Moxian asked with concern as she saw Lin Ming's pale face. After they entered this stone chamber, Lin Ming had fully invested himself in drawing up divine runic symbols. He hadn't noticed what Xiao Moxian had been doing during this time.

"I'm fine. I'll feel better once I rest a little." Lin Ming rubbed his temples. Then, he discovered that Xiao Moxian was holding onto a pink jade slip. It was obvious that while Lin Ming had been practicing the divine runic arts, Xiao Moxian had been looking at this jade slip.

"That is... 'Heavenly Extreme Bliss'?"

Lin Ming froze for a moment before coming to this conclusion. This Heavenly Extreme Bliss jade slip was the dual cultivation transcendent divine might that he had obtained from Torchriver.

"Yes, I've been looking over this in the last day."

Xiao Moxian devilishly smiled. Although she wasn't embarrassed, a faint sunny glow still filled her face, making her seem infinitely charming.

If one went into seclusion alone, that was truly a lonely and boring life. In particular, when martial artists closed up they would often do so for dozens of years. To stay in a stone chamber for dozens of years by oneself, a normal person would definitely fall into madness. Even if a martial artist had a firm mind and will, they would still feel exhausted and weary after dozens of years of loneliness.

But dual cultivating was different. Not only would one cultivate even faster, but the process was extremely enjoyable to begin with. Thus many martial artists happily practiced dual cultivation

together, experiencing ultimate bliss even as they raised their cultivations and broke through boundaries.

However, although this method seemed wonderful, it was actually quite difficult. Wanting to find a dual cultivation transcendent divine might like Heavenly Extreme Bliss that was created by a husband and wife Empyrean couple was extremely problematic. And, even if one had a top dual cultivation method, finding a suitable partner wasn't easy either.

In order to dual cultivate, one needed mutual feelings and also a spiritual harmony between the man and woman. Only like this would the body and soul fuse together during dual cultivation, joining together the life force fields. This sort of wonderful state could not be forced. Without an emotional foundation between two partners, the effects of dual cultivation would be extremely limited.

Not just that, but dual cultivation also had requirements in the bloodline, foundation, and talent of both partners. If one were to dual cultivate with a mortal woman or a female martial artist with a sloppy foundation, there would be little to no effect at all. The only result would be giving vent to one's sexual feelings and wasting one's essence energy.

Even for Torchriver, he gradually lost all value as he approached the end of his lifespan. One could even say that he was extremely poor in this aspect. When he chose a young girl, he only chose those with talent to brutalize in order to make up for his losses.

However, Torchriver was unable to force these women to feel anything for him, thus he could only use the most savage and least effective method of raping these women until he sucked up all of their primordial yin. To use this method with Heavenly Extreme Bliss, this was truly a waste of a treasure.

In comparison, Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian could be called the best partners for each other. Not only did they have feelings for

each other, but each of them had an extremely high level of talent, a solid foundation, and an extraordinary bloodline. Moreover, their two blood energies were in yin yang harmony, a dragon and phoenix rejoicing together. It was like they were a pair of lovers deliberately created by the heavens.

“What have you practiced from that Heavenly Extreme Bliss?” Lin Ming coughed, unable to help asking. Even so, a feeling of gradual anticipation crept over him. Between him and Xiao Moxian, their life forces attracted each other, and when they were together, it wasn’t just the physical sensation of their bodies together, but a spiritual melding. This was the so-called ‘spiritual bond’ that some people felt, and it was truly wonderful.

“I’ve only practiced to the threshold of the first level. Even so, I want to try it with you...”

As Xiao Moxian spoke, she pushed Lin Ming down on the bed. Like this, the two made love to their heart’s content, the spring beauty endlessly glorious. In this process, Lin Ming could also feel the energy and bloodline within him communicating with Xiao Moxian in a very strange way, their yin yang energies harmonizing with each other and becoming increasingly powerful.

It was clear that this strange connection was the Laws of the Heavenly Extremely Bliss.

Chapter 1560 – Leaving Seclusion

Compared to not having a transcendent divine might rank dual cultivation method, if Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian were to try dual cultivating themselves, the effects and speed would naturally be very different.

Heavenly Extreme Bliss focused on training and recuperation. There was absorbing yang to restore yin and absorbing yin to restore yang; both of these were greatly beneficial to both the man and woman. As for the third focus, that was the essence of Heavenly Extreme Bliss.

In short, the main role of Heavenly Extreme Bliss was to consolidate one's foundation and stabilize one's cultivation; the speed of training was terrifyingly fast, especially for geniuses like Xiao Moxian and Lin Ming.

But, if one looked at these and thought that Heavenly Extreme Bliss was not too amazing in the aspect of direct combat, then they would be mistaken. Heavenly Extreme Bliss had offensive martial skills, but these abilities required the man and woman to work in unison in order to display their true striking power. And upon using them, the effects wouldn't be as simple as one plus one.

Thus in the past, although this husband and wife Empyrean couple were only middle to upper rank Empyreans, when they joined forces they were able to contend with a peak Empyrean. This allowed them to have a nearly unparalleled status within the Asura Road!

After dual cultivating with Xiao Moxian for several hours, Lin Ming's originally overdrawn soul force had faintly returned. And during this dual cultivation process, it was Xiao Moxian helping Lin Ming – Lin Ming had barely moved at all. This was a thoroughly enjoyable experience.

This was also reasonable. Although Lin Ming had inherited

Torchriver's memories, he hadn't practiced Heavenly Extreme Bliss after all. If he were to try using it then he would inevitably find it a bit strange and unfamiliar.

Slowly, Lin Ming felt his soul force recover by a great deal as he came into perfect harmony with Xiao Moxian. After their repeated rounds of lovemaking, Lin Ming became increasingly radiant, with a significant upturn in the energy circulating through his body.

Lin Ming even felt himself becoming increasingly close to reaching the middle Divine Lord realm!

When Lin Ming had broken through to the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace, his cultivation had risen straight to the peak of the early Divine Lord realm. Now, he was confident that with several more years of training he would be able to make another breakthrough!

If so, then before Lin Ming was 60 years of age he would be able to break into the middle Divine Lord realm. This was a truly incredible achievement.

As for Xiao Moxian, her cultivation speed far surpassed Lin Ming's.

Xiao Moxian was several years younger than Lin Ming to begin with, and after completing her first phoenix nirvana she had also reached the peak early Divine Lord realm. She might even break into the middle Divine Lord realm before Lin Ming.

"This cultivation method has even better effects than I imagined."

Sitting up on Lin Ming's body, Xiao Moxian dripped with fragrant drops of sweat, still immersed in the blissful pleasure of love. Not only were her cheeks red but her body glowed with jade perfection as if she had been soaking in a hot spring for a long time. She seemed so soft and flushed that one could even pinch out water from her skin.

"This is indeed wonderful. It is rare to find a complete

transcendent divine might to begin with, but this dual cultivation method transcendent divine might can only be created by a husband and wife Empyrean. It's impossible for a single Empyrean to create something like this."

Lin Ming had many top cultivation methods, even ones that surpassed the rank of a transcendent divine might. For instance, the Asura Sutra was one such cultivation method, and even the Divine Seal Art was faintly superior to a transcendent divine might.

However, these two cultivation methods were extremely incomplete. Although he could use a part of their strength, wanting to cultivate from the beginning and raise his foundation to make breakthroughs with these cultivation methods was extremely difficult.

In this aspect, Heavenly Extreme Bliss was able to show its true advantages. From the start, Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian could feel each other's origin energy surging just by holding hands. And now, with the two making love, the effects of this were naturally unparalleled.

After dual cultivating with Xiao Moxian, Lin Ming felt his state of mind be much improved. Thus, he began to tirelessly practice the divine runic arts once again.

After another period of time, as Lin Ming was drawing up another divine runic symbol, he felt the proficiency of his skill had clearly increased to another level.

Closing his eyes, all sorts of finger movements flashed through his mind. These finger movements originated from the ownerless soul fragment memories and were as natural to Lin Ming as if they were his own.

Grasping the divine runic pen, Lin Ming began to draw up another divine runic symbol.

The divine runic pen was filled with the juice of materials. One by one, gorgeous runes were formed beneath Lin Ming's hand. At the start, Lin Ming would successfully draw one complete rune every seven or eight tries, but now he could succeed after two or three tries.

Each time there was a mistake, Lin Ming would reference the memories of the three divine runic masters to find out where he had gone wrong. This sort of analytic ability far surpassed anything an ordinary divine runic apprentice could hope to achieve.

Slowly, Lin Ming corrected his mistakes. Rune after tiny rune was drawn up by Lin Ming, whereupon they floated in the air.

All sorts of rare and precious materials were turned into runes or wasted in Lin Ming's hands.

Lin Ming didn't care about what results he achieved with these divine runic symbols; all he cared about was the process. By repeating these processes again and again, Lin Ming steadily advanced his skill in the divine runic arts.

Tenth day –

With a forehead coated in sweat, Lin Ming drew up one last rune. In that moment, a thousand floating runes shimmered in the sky, fusing together beneath a strange halo of light. Finally, these runes formed a complete divine rune that floated in the air.

Lin Ming's expression was one of complete focus. He took out a god rune of the Asura Road's Heavenly Dao from his spatial ring. Then, by fusing this god rune with the divine rune he drew up, Lin Ming had produced his first divine runic symbol.

Judging by Lin Ming's memories, this divine runic symbol had many imperfections; it could be called very rough or even useless. But, this was still the first divine runic symbol that Lin Ming had created. In the future, as his skill continued to rise, the effects of

the divine runic symbols he created would have better and better effects.

In fact, Lin Ming could even change and improve the structure of divine runic symbols through his own understanding of the divine runic arts.

Training passed without sense of time. Days passed, one after the other. Lin Ming continued to practice drawing divine runic symbols every day, and after his soul force was overdrawn he would dual cultivate with Xiao Moxian. Like this, a year passed.

During this year, Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian's cultivation became increasingly close to the middle Divine Lord realm. At the same time, Lin Ming's skill in drawing up low level divine runic symbols had reached near perfection.

He had thoroughly fused the memories of the three divine runic masters into his own divine runic arts. Now, what Lin Ming needed to do was to go to the Divine Runic Masters Guild and undergo the test for becoming a divine runic master. At the same time, he had to find a chance to approach the assassin organization Heaven's Net and come into contact with Blood Moon, so he could obtain the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace portion of the Celestial Tyrant Manual.

As long as Lin Ming had a suitable cultivation method then his cultivation would rise. With enough strength, he would be able to firmly stand tall in the upcoming great calamity.

Chapter 1561 – The Divine Runic Master Examination

The Divine Runic Masters Guild held examinations for divine runic masters every year. In order to seek out talented individuals, the Divine Runic Masters Guild spared no effort.

For this examination there would always be a massive number of young martial artists that entered into Divine Rune City every year, hoping that they would be able to obtain the recognition of the Divine Runic Masters Guild and bring back the divine runic master badge that they could proudly display to the world.

These youths came not just from Divine Rune City but from many other places all over the Asura Road. For instance, Yue Qifeng and Yue Liuxing were such examples.

In the early morning of the examination, Lin Ming stood in front of the gates of the Divine Runic Masters Guild, looking up at the dignified and weighty plaque. He took a deep breath.

After he became a divine runic master registered with the Divine Runic Masters Guild then it would be much easier for him to come into contact with the Heaven's Net assassin, Blood Moon. With his status as a divine runic master, wanting to exchange for the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace section of the Celestial Tyrant Manual shouldn't be a problem. Moreover, Lin Ming suspected that even though Blood Moon possessed the latter half of the Celestial Tyrant Manual, this cultivation method shouldn't be too useful to him. Lin Ming didn't believe that there had been anyone besides himself and Empyrean Primordius who had opened the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace.

“We're finally here! It's this place!”

As Lin Ming was lost in thought, he heard a soft woman's voice behind him. He turned to see a young woman in a white divine

runic master's robe dragging along a gray-haired old man, seemingly in a hurry to enter the Divine Runic Masters Guild.

This young woman looked to be around Xiao Moxian's age. Beneath her voluminous divine runic master's robes, one could still see her winding curves. She was definitely a shapely young woman.

On the chest of her robes was a divine runic badge. This badge only had a single rune carved atop it without a single stripe; this was the badge worn by divine runic apprentices.

As for the old man that was being dragged along, he smiled as he was being pulled. "What are you in a hurry for, what are you so anxious for? The examination doesn't even begin for another two hours and there aren't many people on the martial field. As for those other old fellows, they definitely won't appear until the last moment."

As the old man spoke, Lin Ming glanced at the divine runic master badge on his chest. There were six stripes, indicating that he was a sixth grade divine runic master!

Moreover, the last stripe was embellished with three small runes. This meant that this old man was considered first class amongst sixth grade divine runic masters. He could even be called a superior sixth grade divine runic master!

This was an amazing accomplishment and it also meant that this old man's cultivation had likely reached the Great World King boundary. Even if it hadn't, he likely wasn't too far away.

"The inner Asura Road really has many World Kings..."

Lin Ming was already mentally prepared for this. The Asura Road originally gathered all outstanding individuals from the 33 Heavens, and this was especially true for the inner Asura Road. Moreover, Divine Rune City was one of the most prosperous cities of the inner Asura Road. Here, Holy Lords and Divine Lords were

far too common, and even World Kings weren't a rare sight.

As this old man moved towards the gate, the two guards standing there immediately greeted him with great respect, bowing to him. This was the respect given to a sixth grade divine runic master. Even if this old man wasn't a divine runic master of the Divine Runic Masters Guild, this etiquette could not be ignored.

However, as Lin Ming walked closer he clearly wasn't treated so well. The two guards didn't even glance at Lin Ming and allowed him to enter.

In order to join the examination, there were no strict requirements to register. However, there was one point: materials needed to be prepared in advance by the examinee or purchased through the Divine Runic Masters Guild. Only when one successfully passed the examination would they be reimbursed for these materials. This was to prevent some divine runic apprentices from showing up and participating while not caring if they passed or not.

As Lin Ming walked into the hall, he traced his spatial ring. He had prepared five sets of materials today. Two were for the first grade divine runic master examination and three were for the second grade divine runic master examination.

Lin Ming wanted to raise his grade as a divine runic master as soon as possible. This was because even if he obtained the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace section of the Celestial Tyrant Manual, he still required a massive amount of exceedingly rare and precious materials to refine the medicine. However, these rare and precious materials were nearly impossible to collect unless he had the status of a high grade divine runic master!

As he arrived in the examination hall, 11-12 youths were already waiting there.

Lin Ming saw the young girl he had bumped into at the gates. In addition, he saw Yue Liuxing and Yue Qifeng, the brother and

sister duo he had met when he first arrived at the inner Asura Road. They were also entering the divine runic master examination this year.

“Eh? Lin Ming!”

“What a coincidence to run into you here.”

This wasn't as much of a coincidence as it seemed. The last time he saw Yue Liuxing and Yue Qifeng, they had only been divine runic apprentices and now was the appropriate time for them to try out for the diviner runic master examination.

“It's been a while.” Lin Ming smiled in greeting.

“Lin Ming, what are you doing here?” Yue Liuxing asked, curious. She didn't think that Lin Ming had come here to take the divine runic master examination with them.

Lin Ming awkwardly coughed. But, just as he was about to answer, the wooden door of the hall opened and another examinee arrived.

As Lin Ming turned, a strangely interested look came over his face.

The newly arrived examinee was also a young girl in her prime, She wore a blue robe and her hair was like a shawl that spread down her back. Her entire body exuded a light and sprightly feeling.

However, what caused the strange expression to come over Lin Ming's face was not the young girl but the master following behind her. This master was a bit short and fat, with small and bright eyes. From his looks, he resembled an extremely large and fat mouse. This was the Old Man Xue that Lin Ming had accidentally encountered in the Divine Runic Masters Guild a year ago.

This Old Man Xue had been tricked by Lin Ming. The emperor jade fragment had been sold to Lin Ming as if it were a mere spirit treasure fragment. Although he hadn't noticed anything

afterwards, Old Man Xue still thought he could con Lin Ming once more and take him in as a disciple. In the end, he failed.

“This stingy old geezer would actually accept an apprentice?” Lin Ming looked at the young and beautiful girl standing in front of Old Man Xue. Although he felt it a bit unbelievable, she was clearly his apprentice. He felt that any apprentice of his was surely unlucky.

Old Man Xue was all smiles as he entered. After passing through the doors, his eyes locked onto another high grade divine runic master. This was the sixth grade divine runic master that Lin Ming had seen at the entrance.

“Old Su, haha, to think I’d see you here today!”

“Hehe, this isn’t something normal. But, let me give you a warning. I brought Clearshadow here today not to become a first grade divine runic master, but to take the test for a second grade divine runic master! At that time, make sure you don’t bully me, haha!”

“Oh! What a coincidence! I also brought my apprentice Dreampearl here to take the second grade divine runic master test.” Old Man Xue responded in sharp opposition. The young girl called Dreampearl behind seemed much more modest. She smiled and said, “Teacher, you think too highly of me. I only have 30% confidence that I can successfully draw up a second grade divine inscription symbol.”

30%!

Although Dreampearl spoke humbly, Old Su still felt his heart skip a beat once he heard this. A divine runic master examination would last for around 10 hours, and during this time an examinee was allowed to attempt drawing up a divine runic symbol several times. Even if one failed once, they still had a second attempt and a third attempt. If she could guarantee a 30% success chance then there really might be a possibility she could pass the test.

Old Su couldn't help but glance over at his own apprentice Clearshadow. He could faintly feel that Clearshadow didn't have a 30% chance of success.

"Don't worry, Teacher! Just because she says 30% doesn't mean it is 30%. I would like to experience her skills myself!"

Clearshadow wasn't too anxious or panicked. Old Su nodded in satisfaction. But at this moment, Old Man Xue halted. As soon as he passed through the door he had come into conflict with Old Su and hadn't noticed the other people in the room. But now that he glanced over everyone else, he discovered there was someone he was acquainted with – Lin Ming, a little pig that he had wanted to butcher for money but that had managed to escape.

"Hey brat, you're here because..." Looking at Lin Ming's posture as well as the divine runic pen in his hand, a ridiculous complexion flashed over Old Man Xue's face. "Brat, don't tell me you're here to participate in the divine runic master examination!"

Lin Ming spread out his hands, saying, "It's a bit regrettable, but... that is the reason I am here."

"Hahaha!" Old Man Xue heartily smiled, wagging his fat finger at Lin Ming. "You, you must be teasing me! In any case, why don't you consider my earlier suggestion and become my apprentice? If your talent was too low and you were unfit for the divine runic arts then I wouldn't think of receiving you to begin with."

Lin Ming helplessly shrugged and sighed, saying, "I'm really not teasing you."

Like this, Old Man Xue's laughter suddenly stopped. He looked at Lin Ming with the eyes of a stranger. He was well aware that a year ago, Lin Ming had been nothing but an interested outsider to the divine runic arts. Now, he wanted to take a go at the divine runic master examination. It seemed this young man really liked to waste his time away.

Well, what's done was done. This was Lin Ming's materials and money to begin with so there wasn't anything he could do.

"Well, keep thinking about it. I think it's best if you were my apprentice." Old Man Xue said, giving Lin Ming 'advice' one more time.

Lin Ming responded, "Senior's price for taking in an apprentice is too high. This junior truly can't afford to enjoy such luxuries."

As Lin Ming spoke, he glanced at the Dreampearl behind Old Man Xue. This young woman was clearly Old Man Xue's best apprentice, someone who might inherit his complete legacy in the future. Otherwise, there was no way that someone like Old Man Xue would accompany her here for the divine runic master examination.

It was hard to say what was so special about this young woman that someone so stingy like Old Man Xue would see in her.

After listening to Lin Ming joke about Old Man Xue's tuition fees, Old Su laughed, "Old Xue, just what do you want me to think of you? You would even con a little junior out of his money!"

Old Su naturally wouldn't relinquish a chance to mock Old Man Xue. However, Old Man Xue's skin was thick enough for the both of them. After being seen through he said, "All goods come at a cost. If I dare to put out such a price then I naturally have confidence in my worth. Boy, if you don't believe me then you can come and study with me. I guarantee that it will be much faster than you studying alone."

Old Man Xue struck his chest in guarantee. But, just as he was about to say something else, the doors to the hall opened once more and another young heroic elite entered.

This person was a spiritus youth that seemed to be just over 20 years old. He walked with mighty strides, like tigers and dragons. His eyes were bright, and there was no teacher following behind

him. He had come here alone!

Chapter 1562 – Soul Emperor Divine Void

The spiritas youth was tall. His eyes were cold and bright, like a warm spring at the summit of a 100,000 foot snowy mountain. His hair was quite special; it was long and wrapped around his waist, supple enough to attract the envy of any woman. It flowed with a silver light, as if it were liquid mercury.

This sort of man had a noble and untouchable charismatic atmosphere, as if he were born to be an emperor.

His sudden appearance immediately attracted the attention of everyone present. Even Lin Ming was surprised; this youth was just far too unusual.

The youth chose a divine runic table to stand at. He watched without touching the ground, only stepping on the air instead. This was because he had released his soul force, turning it into tangible essence that floated beneath his feet. Thus, he simply didn't need to touch the ground.

This was a method of cultivating soul force. By using this method to remain floating all year round, one's soul force would slowly be tempered.

As Old Man Xue and Old Man Su saw this youth, they glanced at each other. They saw a trace of fright appear in the other's eyes.

From this youth's body, they could feel an aura that was difficult to describe. Moreover, the clothing that this young man wore as well as the temperament brought about by his cultivation method reminded them of something.

Old Man Xue thought for a moment, saying, "Young man, are you from Divine Void Divine Kingdom?"

Old Man Xue's words caught the attention of everyone present. Everyone looked towards the young man, their faces filled with anticipation. This was because most of the martial artists present

were spiritas, and Divine Void Divine Kingdom had an extraordinary significance to their soul race.

The young man slightly nodded, acknowledging his background. With this, everyone present, including Yue Liuxing and Yue Qifeng, all looked at this spiritas youth with fear and awe in their eyes.

Divine Void Divine Kingdom – that was a spiritas True Divinity Holy Land!

Although Divine Rune City had astonishing influence and power, that was only in terms of alchemy and divine runic arts. In terms of military force alone, Divine Rune City naturally couldn't compare to a True Divinity level influence like Divine Void Divine Kingdom.

“Divine Void Divine Kingdom?”

Lin Ming thought out loud, faintly recalling something.

Old Su sighed with emotion, “Really, heroes come from the youth. We spiritas had two great Divine Kingdoms in the Asura Road – Divine Void and Divine Mist Divine Kingdoms. But because Empyrean Divine Mist strangely disappeared without any trace at all, everything relied on the support of Divine Void Divine Kingdom. But afterwards, when his majesty the Soul Emperor broke through the True Divinity boundary, that made my soul race truly invincible! Looking at you, your foundation is solid and your soul force has managed to condense into substantial essence. It seems you are also a leader amongst the juniors of Divine Void Divine Kingdom.”

The spiritas martial artists of Divine Void Divine Kingdom, when compared to the other spiritas, were like the royal family members of the imperial capital compared to the aristocratic families; the difference in status was obvious. Although the silver-haired youth was young, he would definitely become an important figure in the future. Thus, he couldn't be considered a common junior. Even

divine runic masters with considerable status like Old Su and Old Man Xue had to treat him with respect.

The silver-haired youth lightly said, “I’m no leader at all. Divine Void Divine Kingdom is filled with extraordinary people. I am merely one of the successors of Divine Void Divine Kingdom’s King Qin. 15 years ago, I was taught under Imperial Scholar Lord Pao and learned a little bit of the divine runic arts. When I left the Divine Kingdom to adventure through the world, I heard that Divine Rune City’s divine runic arts were without parallel. Thus, I came here to experience just how wonderful they are!”

The silver-haired youth casually said, confidence tinting his voice. In terms of divine runic arts, Divine Void Divine Kingdom was naturally inferior to Divine Rune City. But, the difference wasn’t too great. Many top masters of Divine Void Divine Kingdom were divine runic masters.

So, the silver-haired youth had only come to Divine Rune City to ‘experience’ this place. He wasn’t like Yue Qifeng and Yue Liuxing who hoped to study and grow here.

This divine runic arts examination was only a means for this silver-haired youth to prove himself. He didn’t really want or need the badge of the Divine Runic Masters Guild.

“So it’s the heir to King Qin! How disrespectful of us!” Old Xue had a stern expression as he heard the name of King Qin.

In Divine Void Divine Kingdom, those that earned the title of King were Emphyreans. Although Divine Void Divine Kingdom’s ‘Kings’ were only weak Emphyreans, an Emphyrean was still an Emphyrean. Compared to a World King, their status was as different as the heavens and earth.

“Hahaha! This examination truly has so many astonishing people! One Clearshadow, one Dreampearl, those two are already outstanding elites amongst their generation. I thought that these two would be the main leads in the examination, but I should have

realized that there is always a higher mountain. As the examination is about to start, someone even more amazing actually appears. Young man, what is your name?”

Old Su asked the silver-haired youth, laughing.

The silver-haired youth cupped his hands across his chest and said, “Qin Yi.”

As he spoke, the two proud daughters of heaven, Clearshadow and Dreampearl, both looked at him, a brilliant fighting spirit in their eyes. Indeed, as Old Man Su had said, this examination had far surpassed their expectations.

Although they couldn’t make out how skilled this Qin Yi was in the divine runic arts, they could approximate it from his background. If he didn’t have true ability then he wouldn’t have come to the Divine Runic Masters Guild to lose face. Divine Void Divine Kingdom could be called the spiritual leader of all spiritas within the Asura Road!

Qin Yi would eventually become their greatest competition!

As Old Su and Old Xue were talking to Qin Yi, a peculiar light flashed in Lin Ming’s eyes.

Divine Void Divine Kingdom!

Divine Mist Divine Kingdom!

The so-called Divine Mist Divine Kingdom was the Divine Kingdom that Empyrean Divine Mist had founded!

Millions of years ago, Empyrean Divine Mist had already been an extreme Empyrean. However, he had been unable to step into the realm of True Divinity. Afterwards, because of some reason, he was hunted down by his own older brother and was forced into Tragic Death Valley.

Like this, Empyrean Divine Mist had been stranded in Tragic Death Valley for millions of years. In Tragic Death Valley, this was

tens of millions of years. Only at the end did he meet Lin Ming.

This older brother of Empyrean Divine Mist, without a doubt, was Empyrean Divine Void! Or, as some others called him, True Divinity Divine Void!

Now, the spiritual leader of the Asura Road's soul race was the so-called Divine Void Divine Kingdom. And this Divine Kingdom's ruler was the culprit ultimately responsible for bringing about Empyrean Divine Mist's ruin!

Lin Ming rapidly realized all of this.

In the past, when Lin Ming asked Empyrean Divine Mist why he had been chased into Tragic Death Valley, Empyrean Divine Mist had only responded with a single word – enmity.

It was only just before he left Tragic Death Valley that Empyrean Divine Mist revealed more about his past. The one who had chased him down had been his blood brother. Moreover, because of some strange telepathic connection between the brothers, as long as Empyrean Divine Mist left Tragic Death Valley his older brother would be able to sense him. Thus, it was impossible for Empyrean Divine Mist to leave.

All of this occurred in just several breaths of time. It was at this moment that he thought of something...

After a moment of thought, Lin Ming spoke, wanting to confirm his guess. "I have something I would like to ask..."

"Mm?"

In a situation where everyone was gathered around Qin Yi, it was extremely abrupt for Lin Ming to ask a sudden question. In this hall, Lin Ming had a very humble and common status. Besides Old Man Xue, Yue Liuxing, and Yue Qifeng, there had been no one else that took notice of him. If there was anything noticeable about Lin Ming then it might be that he was a human. In this hall, besides him, everyone else was a spirit martial artist.

There were simply far, far too few human divine runic masters.

Qin Yi, Old Man Su, Clearshadow, Dreampearl, and the others only glanced at Lin Ming before ignoring him. Old Man Xue smiled, kindly asking, “What is it, boy? Are you trying to rain on his parade?”

In Old Man Xue’s eyes, Lin Ming had come here to play games and cause chaos. But, there were simply far too many talented individuals that had shown up. Perhaps instead of causing chaos, Lin Ming might be made a joke instead.

Lin Ming said without any hurry, “I want to ask, when did Senior Divine Void break into the True Divinity realm?”

Lin Ming’s question aroused an immediate frown from Qin Yi. Qin Yi’s eyes were swift and fierce as he glared at Lin Ming, “What insolence. The name of his majesty the Soul Emperor is not something someone like you can speak out loud!”

With this shout, killing intent surged out from Qin Yi’s body and locked onto Lin Ming, forcefully and menacingly. This sort of feeling was like a fight could break out at any moment.

The atmosphere became tense for a time. Old Man Xue hurriedly laughed as he tried to defuse the situation, “Lin Ming, the given name of his majesty the Soul Emperor cannot be spoken out loud so casually. But because you are not from the soul race you probably don’t know about this matter, so we’ll make an exception for you just this once. However, there won’t be a next time...”

Sometimes, the name of an emperor was a taboo term. In mortal nations, there were emperors that couldn’t be referred to by their name. And beyond even speaking out the name, sometimes even writing the name on paper was forbidden. One would need to replace the name of the emperor with other illustrious words instead.

Even so, Lin Ming had received the grace of Empyrean Divine

Mist. Towards this Empyrean Divine Void who had forced Empyrean Divine Mist into a hopeless dead end, Lin Ming had no favorable impressions at all.

Lin Ming looked at Old Man Xue. Although Old Man Xue was a stingy and tricky fellow, the truth was that he had a good heart. Since Old Man Xue had tried to resolve the situation for him, Lin Ming didn't want to make matters more difficult. He faintly said, "This junior truly didn't know."

"Mm, just make sure you pay a little bit more attention next time. Then, you asked when his majesty the Soul Emperor broke into the True Divinity realm?" Old Man Xue looked at Lin Ming, a little puzzled. He didn't know why Lin Ming would suddenly ask such a question.

"Yes." Lin Ming replied.

"Well... the current Soul Emperor broke through to the True Divinity realm 3 million years ago!" As Old Man Xue spoke he cupped his hands together across his chest, clearly showing his respect for Soul Emperor Divine Void.

3 million years?

Lin Ming's eyes widened. He felt his speculations were much more likely to be correct. "Do you know the exact time?"

Lin Ming kept chasing for answers. This confused Old Man Xue; just what was Lin Ming asking these questions for?

However, Qin Yi arrogantly replied, "The exact time is 3.47 million years ago. When his majesty the Soul Emperor broke through to True Divinity, nine colors of heavenly tribulation descended from the skies, the winds and clouds changed, and all worshipped him. This matter was permanently written down in the holy texts of the soul race and is the most grand occasion to occur in the last 100 million years of my people! Your curiosity runs far too deep; just what does his majesty the Soul Emperor

breaking through to the realm of True Divinity have to do with you?”

“Mm, I understand now...”

Lin Ming took a deep breath, his vision solemn.

When Divine Void broke into the realm of True Divinity, that was about the same time Empyrean Divine Mist was forced into Tragic Death Valley!

Chapter 1563 – The Examination Begins

When Lin Ming was in Tragic Death Valley, he had accompanied Empyrean Divine Mist for seven years. During these seven years, Empyrean Divine Mist had nearly never spoken about his past. Lin Ming had only once asked him how long he had been stranded in Tragic Death Valley and Empyrean Divine Mist had responded with an approximate figure – 35 million years.

The flow of time in Tragic Death Valley was increased in a 10:1 ratio from the outside. That meant that 35 million years within Tragic Death Valley was equal to 3.5 million years outside, a figure consistent with the 3.47 million years that Qin Yi had spoken of!

It was inevitable that he formed some connections in his mind.

The most likely explanation was that in the past, when Divine Void wanted to kill Divine Mist, the reason was to compete for the qualifications to become a True Divinity! Or, they were struggling for some sort of object that was able to allow either one of the two brothers to rise to the True Divinity Realm; for instance, pills, artifacts, and so forth!

And in the end, Divine Void had come out on top. After he became a True Divinity, he forced Divine Mist into Tragic Death Valley.

Lin Ming had thought this was strange in the past. Empyrean Divine Mist and Great Emperor Divine Void were brothers to begin with. If the two brothers were willing to support each other then they could truly dominate the world, unrivalled by anyone. So, just what had happened that could cause these two brothers to become enemies?

If it was said that the means of becoming a True Divinity were the reason that the two brothers engaged in a life or death struggle, then everything was easily explained!

The True Divinity realm was far too tempting for an Empyrean! Even Divine Dream, Primordius, Demondawn, all of them were willing to pay a great price to reach the True Divinity boundary.

Empyrean Divine Dream had severed her primordial spirit. Empyrean Primordius had returned to his homeland to found his own Samsara Heavenly Dao. Empyrean Demondawn had sided with the saints to betray humanity. All of this was done to reach the True Divinity realm!

Moreover, Lin Ming had something that he hadn't been able to figure out before. Empyrean Divine Mist and Great Emperor Divine Void had similarly astonishing levels of talent to begin with and their cultivation conditions were similar. So, why did Divine Void step into the True Divinity realm whilst Divine Mist remained at the extreme Empyrean realm? When an Empyrean stepped into True Divinity, that was an entirely new level altogether; it wasn't a minor difference.

If one had to think about it, then several million years ago, the two brothers Divine Void and Divine Mist must have stumbled onto some opportunity to becoming a True Divinity. But, this opportunity could only help one person realize their dreams. And for this chance, Divine Void had harmed Divine Mist. If so, then everything made sense!

“So originally... the reason Divine Mist fell into Tragic Death Valley was because of some chance of becoming a True Divinity!”

Lin Ming sighed with emotion. Millions of years ago, Empyrean Divine Mist had been at the prime of his life. He could be called a dashing and heroic figure who had even learned about a chance to become a True Divinity. If he had succeeded then his prospects would have been endless and his name would have been preserved in the annals of history.

But no one could predict the heavens or the hearts of others. In the end, Divine Mist had been harmed by his brother and had lost

his chance of becoming a True Divinity. Then, he had been trapped in the hopeless Tragic Death Valley of tens for millions of years as he slowly exhausted himself to the point of death!

This gruesome experience had only been described by Empyrean Divine Mist with one word – enmity. He was unwilling to bring up his past because he didn't want to relive it. In this word 'enmity', it was unknown just how much misery and sorrow was contained!

Lin Ming secretly swore that if he had the ability, he would definitely seek justice for Empyrean Divine Mist!

As Lin Ming was deep in thought, several red-clothed deacons stepped into the examination hall. Amongst these red-clothed deacons was a white-robed old man.

These people were all judges for this examination.

The white-robed old man was an Elder of the Divine Runic Masters Guild. During every examination for divine runic masters, the Divine Runic Masters Guild would send out an Elder to manage it, even if they were only testing for new recruits.

With Old Man Xue and Old Man Su, there were three senior divine runic masters present.

As the old white-robed man stepped through the doors, Old Man Xue sent him a true essence sound transmission informing him of the situation. After the old man heard this, he looked at Qin Yi with some surprise. "Qin Yi, I'm looking forwards to your performance!"

The white-robed old man didn't conceal his appreciation of Qin Yi. Of course, he didn't ignore the other juniors here. He quickly glanced over everyone in the hall and said, "There is also the rest of you, I am anticipating your performance too. If possible, I hope that all of you can become divine runic masters. Of course... because the examination is considerably strict, the chances of that happening aren't too high. Every year, only an exceedingly small

number of people qualify. Perhaps this year will be considered a good harvest...”

As the white-robed old man spoke, his eyes swept over Qin Yi, Clearshadow, and Dreampearl. The three of them were the stars of this year.

Of the three of them, Clearshadow and Dreampearl both seemed brimming with confidence, eager to begin. As for Qin Yi, his complexion was indifferent as if he didn't care too much.

“Dreampearl, relax your mind and show your normal level of skill.”

Old Man Xue said towards his own apprentice, giving her a thumbs. Although this old man was stingy towards others and he particularly wanted to take advantage of Lin Ming's wealth, he was indeed very good to his apprentices.

After speaking to his apprentice, Old Man Xue turned to Lin Ming. He laughed, saying, “There is also you, boy. You can do it! Even if you are here to cause a little chaos you should try your best to stir up some trouble. Otherwise, it won't be you wasting our time but us wasting yours.”

Old Man Xue said, his face full of smiles. Lin Ming smiled and nodded in return. Towards this overly large fellow that resembled a round mouse, Lin Ming had some good impressions. This old man's heart wasn't bad at all. If he were to cooperate with such a person in a life or death mystic realm, then although he might be taken advantage of a little, he at least wouldn't need to worry about a hidden knife to his back.

As the examination Elder stood at the front of the stage, the divine runic master examination was set to begin.

Lin Ming quietly glanced over at Qin Yi and took up his own divine runic pen. Although meeting Qin Yi during this examination was a bit surprising to Lin Ming, it was a little

interlude that he took seriously.

At this time, Qin Yi's hands were hanging low to his sides. He hadn't picked up his divine runic pen yet, like he wasn't even here to take the examination. His confidence seemed to be without parallel.

“During this divine runic master examination, there is no limit to the number of failures. If you can complete a single first grade divine runic symbol in 10 hours then you will be considered as having passed. The examination begins now!”

The white-robed Elder calmly announced. Although he said there was no limit to the number of failures, the money for the materials had to be provided by oneself. There was no one that was willing to randomly waste their own materials. Moreover, a low level divine runic master could at most complete three divine runic symbols in 10 hours. In other words, if they failed three times then they would have more or less failed the examination.

As the examination started, many examinees began rapidly using their soul force to process materials. Then, they used their divine runic pens to suck up the juices of the materials and begin drawing up the numerous and complex divine runes.

Lin Ming was no exception. The divine runic symbol he chose to produce this time was the ‘Overwhelming Rune’.

Although the Overwhelming Rune sounded as if it had an earth-shaking name, it indeed was an unforgettable memory to Lin Ming.

When Lin Ming was 15 years old, in order to pay for resources he had busily rushed everywhere to find a job. This was when he stumbled upon the Magic Cube. After he obtained the Magic Cube, he inherited the memories of an inscription master. The first inscription symbol that Lin Ming had drawn up was the Overwhelming Rune.

Of course, that Overwhelming Rune and the Overwhelming Rune of the Asura Road were two completely different concepts. The current Overwhelming Rune was part of the divine runic arts, and it was tens of thousands of times stronger. In the past, the Overwhelming Rune that Lin Ming had drawn up had only been the lowest level inscription symbol.

Even so, to the Lin Ming of that time, collecting the materials for the Overwhelming Rune had nearly caused him to be broke.

In order to save the materials that cost him all of his wealth, Lin Ming hadn't been willing to practice drawing up Overwhelming Runes using his materials. Rather, he used his own true essence to draw up the Overwhelming Rune. He had practiced for many days and nights, failing countless times as he repeatedly overdrew his divine soul.

In this sort of hellish practice environment, Lin Ming had put in an incredible amount of effort before he managed to successfully draw up the Overwhelming Rune. But, the process of selling the Overwhelming Rune was also filled with suffering and difficulties.

No one was able to judge the quality of his work. Lin Ming had gone to numerous shops where he was rejected many times. Finally, he had to sell the Overwhelming Rune on consignment. The price was low to the point that it seemed to be an inscription symbol drawn by an apprentice. During the process, he even encountered his old sweetheart Lan Yunyue. She had looked at him with a sadness unfit for an outsider.

As Lin Ming recalled all of this, his movements became much slower. It was like the scene of dozens of years ago when he first drew up the Overwhelming Rune was replaying itself in his mind. He recalled walking down that difficult early road, adding halo upon halo to his body until he shined with radiance. He was moved just by thinking about this.

As Lin Ming was immersed in his own drawing, every stroke of

his was filled with a sincere earnestness.

And to the side, there was someone that was staring at Lin Ming the entire time. This person was Old Man Xue.

Old Man Xue was all smiles. He planned to see just what tricks Lin Ming was going to bring up. But as Lin Ming started to draw up the Overwhelming Rune, his happy expression slowly froze on his face, to be replaced by one of growing astonishment.

In his opinion, it was impossible to produce a divine runic master without dozens of years of hard work. This was also in a situation where there was a teacher guiding them.

Of course, if one was a heaven-gifted rare talent and also had the hands-on help of a teacher, then learning enough to become a divine runic master in 10 years wasn't a problem at all.

For instance, Qin Yi had only practiced the divine runic arts for 15 years. And looking at his appearance, he was definitely more skilled than a first grade divine runic master.

However, no matter how ridiculous one's talent was, Old Man Xue didn't believe that Lin Ming could learn how to honestly draw up a divine runic symbol in a single year. Although Lin Ming's movements were slow, they were steady and true!

His fundamentals could be called solid.

This was especially astonishing because Lin Ming was a human martial artist!

"This boy... just how did he practice? Had he already come into contact with the divine runic arts a year ago and was just pretending?"

As Old Man Xue thought about it, he didn't believe that Lin Ming would do something so juvenile and meaningless as tricking him. At that time, there was no point in pretending. After all, Lin Ming wasn't a child.

“Could he have had some fortuitous encounter? Or perhaps he had the guidance of some famous teacher?”

At this time, Old Man Xue was completely ignoring his own apprentice Dreampearl. All of his concentration was placed on Lin Ming as he closely observed Lin Ming’s movements. If Lin Ming could maintain this state then there really was the chance that he could complete a divine runic symbol!

Of course, it was too early to make any guesses right now. Lin Ming’s movements weren’t fast and completing a single divine runic symbol required forming hundreds and thousands of tiny runes. If there was a single misstep then the entire drawing would fail!

However, even if Lin Ming failed, this was an incomparably terrifying talent in Old Man Xue’s eyes. If this level of talent could be maintained, then Lin Ming would absolutely be able to become a divine runic master in two years. Within five or six years, he could become a second grade divine runic master. In 10 years, he might even rise to a third grade divine runic master!

This was the speed of a monstrous genius!

Chapter 1564 – Divine Runic Master Qualifications

The examination had already been underway for several dozen breaths of time and Lin Ming had drawn up 10 tiny rune structures. Although his speed was very slow, his strokes were steady and it was impossible for anyone to find a flaw in them.

However, besides this sort of proper and orderly method astonishing Old Man Xue, who knew of Lin Ming's background, there was no one else that noticed him.

The attention of the people present was mostly concentrated on the two beautiful girls, Dreampearl and Clearshadow.

Their drawing of the divine runic symbol could be called as beautiful as flying dragons and dancing phoenixes, wonderful to the senses. Their ten slender fingers waved like lush plants in the wind, and when joined together with the divine runic pen that had absorbed the juices of all sorts of materials, the beautiful rainbows of lights they painted in the skies were as illusive and wonderful as a dream.

This exquisite and smooth technique left many people who had come to watch the examination, including some deacons, crying out in praise.

To watch these two young girls draw up divine runic symbols could be called a type of enjoyment.

“They are indeed apprentices taught by Old Su and Old Xue! From their appearances it shouldn't difficult for them to obtain the qualifications for a divine runic master at all.”

Several deacons discussed amongst themselves with true essence sound transmission. The white-robed old man smiled, saying, “Yes, there shouldn't be any problems for them to obtain the divine runic master qualifications, but perhaps the main play

today might not be them. That main lead, has yet to begin...”

As the white-robed Elder spoke, he glanced towards the side. Everyone followed his vision. The one that he had been speaking about was the successor to the Divine Void Divine Kingdom’s King Qin, Qin Yi.

The examination had already been in progress for 20 some breaths of time, but Qin Yi’s hands were still calmly resting by his side. He had yet to do anything.

“What is he doing? Is this his attempt at being humble?”

As the deacons saw Qin Yi’s calm and idle appearance, all of them frowned. In truth, although they held some awe towards this talented youth from Divine Void Divine Kingdom, they didn’t believe that he would blossom in glory and drown out the light of Divine Rune City’s local examinees.

The competition had been going for such a long time but he hadn’t even moved yet. Whatever he was planning, it seemed a bit too theatrical.

“This fellow is too arrogant!” A deacon said, a bit disgusted.

“What is the meaning of this? Does he want our people to complete their drawings first so he can then display his high and mighty skills?”

The white-robed Elder shook his head, “You have misunderstood what he is doing. Although this Qin Yi is arrogant, that arrogance is within his bones and he won’t normally show it. The reason he has yet to move is not because he is intentionally demonstrating his strength, but because he is carefully analyzing and feeling out the structure and characteristics of all the materials. He is drawing up a divine runic symbol plan diagram in his mind. Once he is finished, he will draw it, and draw it all at once.”

When a top artist was drawing up a painting, they would have a complete image in their mind of what their painting would be like

before they even began. This was what it meant to have a well thought out plan and one would be able to proceed with absolute confidence; to be forewarned was to be forearmed. A divine runic master was the same when they drew up divine runic symbols. If they first outlined the divine runic symbol in their mind, they would be able to draw up the complete symbol.

And just as the white-robed Elder finished speaking, Qin Yi began to move.

He casually picked up a handful of materials and tossed them in the air. He revolved his soul force, manifesting it into a sharp blade that chopped up these materials.

These divine runic symbol materials were all quite expensive. A normal divine runic master would process them with care, lest they make any mistakes and waste them. But, Qin Yi's actions were bold and brave, because he had already become familiar with the structure and characteristics of these materials. Even the tiniest differences in the materials had been thoroughly probed by him earlier. This was the ability brought about by Qin Yi's strong soul force.

With a series of slicing sounds, the batch of materials was processed by Qin Yi. Some had their juices drawn out, some were ground into powder, and some were sliced into parts.

Then, all of the materials gathered within Qin Yi's palm.

This caused the white-robed Elder's eyes to brighten. What wonderful hand work! At such a young age this Qin Yi was able to control several types of materials at once!

Normally, when a divine runic master drew up a divine runic symbol, they would handle materials one at a time in order to guarantee the highest chance of success. This was because one couldn't split their mind in two, and the difficulty of controlling several materials at once could be imagined! It would make the process far, far more difficult!

Of course, the advantage of this was that the speed at which one drew up the divine runic symbol would be that much faster. Even so, these weren't actions that a young divine runic master would dare to do.

“This boy is far fiercer than I originally thought! From the materials he has gathered, I think he is drawing up a divine runic symbol called the Fire Melting Symbol. This divine runic symbol is considered quite difficult amongst the first grade divine runic symbols!”

“He is an outstanding character to begin with, so it isn't a surprise for him to choose the Fire Melting Symbol.”

Compared to Qin Yi manipulating a dozen plus materials at once, drawing a Fire Melting Symbol wasn't difficult at all.

As everyone was speaking, Qin Yi began drawing. Without using the divine runic pen, he fused his finger with true essence and used it as a pen, pulling up the material juices to begin his drawing.

His speed was extremely fast. In just several blinks of the eye he drew up one tiny rune. Then in another several blinks he drew up a second. Then a third, fourth... soon he had dozens of them drawn up.

These tiny runes floated in the air, supported there by some invisible power. They were kept a good distance from each other as they faintly resonated with some mysterious Laws. Of course, these Laws were the Asura Road Laws.

Although Qin Yi hadn't started until some time into the examination, with just a little bit of work, he had caught up to everyone else, and had even begun surpassing them.

“What amazing speed!”

The complexions of many people changed. Even Lin Ming glanced to Qin Yi more than once. This Qin Yi was clearly a talented young elite that was carefully raised by Divine Void

Divine Kingdom. Although his cultivation might not be the highest, in terms of divine runic arts he was likely the top junior of his generation in the Divine Void Divine Kingdom.

However, Lin Ming only glanced at him twice before refocusing his thoughts and devoting his attention to the Overwhelming Rune. Even within the divine runic arts system, the Overwhelming Rune could only be considered a low difficulty rune as well as a low level rune.

However, Lin Ming had still chosen this rune because of the memories it recalled for him. Moreover, what Lin Ming was in now was the divine runic master examination and not a divine runic master competition. He would pass as long as he drew up any first grade divine runic symbol.

As Lin Ming calmly and steadily drew up the Overwhelming Rune, he heard two explosive sounds behind him. Two partially drawn divine runic symbols had burst into smoke and flames in the air. This was because some divine runic apprentices had been distracted by looking at Qin Yi and their soul forces had gone out of control, thus their divine runic symbols had blown up.

These two divine runic apprentices suddenly seemed as if they would begin crying.

Although they still had plenty of time remaining, the chances of them crossing the examination were small to begin with. At the start, when their soul force was at its peak, they still had some hopes that they would succeed. But as more time passed and their soul force weakened, their chances would naturally diminish.

Besides these two nearly hopeless divine runic apprentices, there were many others that were having trouble controlling their soul force. Even Yue Liuxing was focused on her work with an extremely tense expression on her face, as if she didn't dare to allow anything to distract her. One could only say that Dreampearl, Clearshadow, and Qin Yi were far too different from

them.

But, in this intense and exhilarating competition between divine runic apprentices, there was someone that didn't pay much attention to Qin Yi at all, no matter how shocking his performance was. Rather, 99% of his attention was focused on Lin Ming. This person was Old Man Xue.

From the start of the examination until now, he had been staring at Lin Ming throughout.

He didn't even glance at his own apprentice more than a few times. Although Qin Yi's appearance had slightly diverted his attention, he had only looked at him for a moment before turning back to Lin Ming.

This sort of situation didn't escape the eyes of Old Man Xue's good friend, Old Su.

"I must say... Old Man Xue, why do you keep staring at that boy? Is there something strange going on?"

Old Su asked from beside Old Xue. His attention had originally been placed on his own apprentice, Clearshadow, so he thought that Old Xue should also be focused on his apprentice, Dreampearl. But, he discovered that Old Xue kept his eyes on Lin Ming from the start of the examination until now, not even blinking. It was like there was something quite interesting on Lin Ming's face.

"He..."

Old Xue wryly smiled, not sure what to say.

Seeing the forced smile on Old Xue's face, Old Su was even more interested. "You don't care about your own apprentice, you haven't looked at Clearshadow, and you aren't even interested in that Divine Void Divine Kingdom genius, Qin Yi. Instead, you are focused on that boy alone? What secrets does he have?"

"Secrets..." Old Xue shook his head. "If I were to tell you that this boy had only studied the divine runic arts for one year, would you

think I was stupid?”

“Only a year!?”

Old Su’s eyebrows leapt up. Before, he had heard Lin Ming and Old Xue squabbling. Old Xue had been mocking Lin Ming and saying that his chances of becoming a divine runic master were low, but Old Su only thought this was because Old Xue wanted Lin Ming to become his apprentice and pay tuition fees. He never imagined that Lin Ming had only studied the divine runic arts for year... no wonder Old Xue had thought that Lin Ming had come to the divine runic master examination to cause trouble.

“Are you sure he’s only studied for one year? The first year of practicing the divine runic arts could be called unimaginably difficult, but if you look at his drawing technique, do you really think that is possible from some novice who has only been studying for a single year?”

Old Su shook his head repeatedly, not willing to believe this.

Old Xue said, “That’s why I’ve been watching him. Qin Yi comes from the True Divinity Holy Land, Divine Void Divine Kingdom. In terms of divine runic master inheritances, although they are inferior to us, that is only in scale and quantity. In terms of the number of top divine runic masters, they have no fewer than we do. If Qin Yi is hand-taught by them then the skills he has displayed aren’t strange at all. But, this Lin Ming... I really cannot figure him out. He is far more amazing than Qin Yi is.”

“Are you sure you didn’t make a mistake?” Old Su said, still unable to believe this.

Old Xue said, “I also doubted it. I thought, did this boy really not start practicing the divine runic arts until a year ago? Perhaps he was playing with me at the time? But what would be his motive in doing so?”

Chapter 1565 – Continuing the Examination For A Second Grade Divine Runic Master

After Old Xue spoke, Old Su began to watch Lin Ming. Lin Ming had completed a third of his divine runic symbol but there were no abnormalities yet in his soul force and his movements were still as steady as before. Compare to when he first started drawing up the divine runic symbol, there wasn't any difference at all.

If this continued, he really would be able to pass the divine runic master examination.

This would be an extraordinary accomplishment.

“Let's just quietly observe. This young man is worth paying attention to, especially as a human. That alone makes him even more out of the ordinary...”

Old Xue whispered. And at this time, Clearshadow and Dreampearl had already completed two-thirds of their divine runic symbols; they were twice as fast as Lin Ming. As for Qin Yi, he was even faster. The tiny runes floating in front of him had already started gathering together, forming a variety of strange patterns as they condensed into a divine runic symbol. This was the last process for completion.

Finally, Qin Yi drew the last tiny rune. As this tiny rune floated into the air, the thousand some tiny runes shimmered, weaving together in the sky and forming a divine runic symbol. At the same time, Qin Yi took out a gold level god rune from his spatial ring, one that was compatible with the divine runic symbol he created.

For a first grade level divine runic symbol, a silver god rune was more than enough; a gold god rune would not have any superior effects. The reason Qin Yi chose a gold god rune was because he was hoping to enhance the grade of the divine runic symbol. If he needed to choose a blue soul level god rune he would have used a

blue soul level god rune.

The divine runic symbol fused together with the Asura Heavenly Dao's god rune. The arrangement of the numerous tiny runes was also affected by the god rune's influence; this was the adding of the Asura Road's Heavenly Dao Laws to the divine runic symbol.

This was the most important step of the divine runic arts. With this, the Fire Melting Symbol was complete!

And after Qin Yi finished drawing this divine runic symbol so quickly he was still beaming and in good spirits, with no sign that he had overdrawn his strength. He flicked his finger and this Fire Melting Symbol turned into a stream of light that flew towards the white-robed Elder responsible for the examination.

The white-robed Elder stretched out his hand and grasped the dazzling divine runic symbol. Then, he probed its internal structure with his sense. He nodded again and again, "Good! Good! Very good!"

To praise three times at once, this was an extremely rare occurrence for the strict examination officials!

Qin Yi's Fire Melting Symbol could only be called superb.

A Fire Melting Symbol was a first grade divine runic symbol. Its use was to be fused into a spirit artifact and increase the spirit artifact's fire-attribute strength. Normally, a low grade spirit artifact's fire-attribute strength could increase by 50%, a medium grade spirit artifact's could be increased by 20%, and a high grade spirit artifact's wouldn't have any change at all.

Now, according to Lin Ming's estimate, the Fire Melting Symbol that Qin Yi drew up was slightly stronger than average. It should be able to increase a low grade spirit artifact's fire-attribute strength by 60% and a medium grade spirit artifact's by 25%. This was extremely rare, because it was already amazing for an ordinary divine runic master to create a Fire Melting Symbol that was on a

standard level. To surpass that standard level was as difficult as ascending to heaven.

“Qin Yi, you have passed the first grade divine runic master examination! At the same time you’ve also earned the right to enter the second grade divine runic master examination. You can choose to enter the second grade divine runic master examination after this is over. Do you have any plans to do so?”

“Of course I will try. My original goal is not to be a mere first grade divine runic master.”

Qin Yi confidently replied. The white-robed Elder chuckled, “Good, you have daring. Then, 12 hours from now, we shall start the examination for a second grade divine runic master!”

A divine runic master examination lasted for 10 hours and there was a two hour break before the second grade divine runic master examination began. If one’s foundation was sloppy and they took until the 10th hour of an examination to finish, then they would have used up all their soul force and would find it impossible to continue onwards to the second grade divine runic master examination.

“Great.”

Qin Yi faintly responded. Then, he walked over to the resting area. Several deacons nodded towards him, feeling a bit strange in their hearts. They suspected that before long, Qin Yi would overtake them in attainments in the divine runic arts, making it seem as if all the effort of their lives had been wasted. Really, comparing oneself to others could truly anger one to death.

After Qin Yi, without any accident, Dreampearl and Clearshadow also completed their divine runic symbols.

The white-robed Elder also inspected their two divine runic symbols. Their two divine runic symbols were in the upper echelons of difficulty for first grade divine runic symbols and there

wasn't much difference in their speed or quality. The two of them could be called evenly matched, but compared to Qin Yi, they were slightly inferior.

“Dreampearl, Clearshadow, would you like to join the second grade divine runic master examination?” The white-robed Elder asked as before.

“Of course!”

“You don't even need to ask!”

Dreampearl and Clearshadow responded, a fighting spirit thick in their voices. The two young women had originally come here to take the test for a second grade divine runic master; the first grade examination had only been a short prelude.

After Dreampearl and Clearshadow, the next one to complete their divine runic symbol was Lin Ming!

The moment that Lin Ming completed his divine runic symbol, Old Su and Old Xue looked at each other, disbelief thick in their eyes. In truth, even in the last quarter hour of time, Lin Ming's movements were as steady as they were at the start, without any chaos in his aura. At this time, the two of them had already guessed that Lin Ming would succeed. However, they still felt it a bit unbelievable that Lin Ming really obtained the qualifications to become a first grade divine runic master.

“Perhaps I really made a mistake... he should have studied the divine runic arts for more than a year, but... from what I can see his skeletal age isn't too old and his cultivation is so high, yet he also minors in the divine runic arts. At the same time, he is even a human... I have no idea just how he practiced...”

Old Xue mumbled to himself. Then, he glanced over at his subordinate and said, “Go to the city gates and look up the skeletal age records for Lin Ming when he entered.”

Divine Rune City only accepted the most outstanding of elites. If

one was able to enter Divine Rune City, they had to be divine runic masters, alchemists, refining masters, old masters, or young elites.

If Lin Ming were to enter with a status as a young elite then he would have had to have his skeletal age verified. And indeed, at the time Lin Ming truly had been tested.

“Young man, do you wish to continue onto the second grade divine runic master examination?” The white-robed Elder asked again.

Lin Ming nodded, “Yes.”

The first grade divine runic master examination wasn't difficult to Lin Ming at all. He had inherited the memories of two sixth grade divine runic masters and a peak fifth grade divine runic master. If he had difficulties becoming a first grade divine runic master then that would have been too unreasonable!

Hearing Lin Ming reply that he was going to join, Dreampearl and Clearshadow both glanced at him with surprise. They had already noticed Lin Ming by now. Amongst everyone here, Lin Ming seemed very common and ordinary, and they had both considered him to be a background character. But, this person was actually going to join them in the second grade divine runic master examination?

Chapter 1566 – Second Grade Divine Runic Master Examination

During this divine runic master examination, four people had rapidly earned the qualifications for a first grade divine runic master and even wanted to continue onwards to the second grade examination. Throughout all of the previous examinations of years past, this was a particularly rare phenomenon.

“That human boy Lin Ming, he wants to take the second grade divine runic master examination... It seems a year ago he was pretending to be a pig to eat the tiger.” Old Su commented. He didn’t believe that someone could learn the divine runic arts to such a degree in just a single year.

“That’s the only explanation.” Old Xue nodded. “This boy, I can’t believe he’s bored enough to do all of this. I wonder just what his skeletal age is. I think he isn’t too old, so for him to have these accomplishments at a young age is quite incredible...”

As Old Xue spoke, a flame sparked in front of him, brilliantly burning.

This was the light of a sound transmitting talisman. Before, he had ordered his subordinate to go to the city gate guards and look up Lin Ming’s records from when he first arrived.

The message was very simple. It provided information for when Lin Ming first entered the city, including his cultivation boundary and other assessments. And more importantly, his skeletal age.

After Old Xue listened to the information on Lin Ming, his mouth fell open and his eyes went out of focus. He wasn’t able to respond for a long time.

Old Su stared at Old Xue’s reaction. Through this, he was faintly aware that the message from the sound transmitting talisman wasn’t ordinary at all. “Hey old man, what’s the matter, why don’t

you say something?”

After being dazed for some time, Old Xue forced a smile. He murmured, “I’m afraid you won’t believe me. I can’t even believe myself.”

“What is it?” Old Su hurriedly asked.

Old Xue waved his hand. Using his soul force he collected the not-yet-dissipated flames of the sound transmitting talisman and replayed them in Old Su’s ears. After Old Su heard this message, although he was prepared, he was still shocked speechless.

“Early Divine Lord realm cultivation, complete Eight Inner Hidden Gates opened, and when he entered the city he wasn’t even a divine runic master. Thus, they could only determine the level of his talent. And, they determined that his skeletal age is... less than 60 years old!?”

Old Su’s throat twitched. Disregarding Lin Ming’s divine runic arts talent, just his Divine Lord realm cultivation and his complete Eight Inner Hidden Gates at less than 60 years of age was the sign of an unrivalled monstrous genius. Even the talents of a True Divinity Hold Land would be hard pressed to compare!

Moreover, the most important information from the city records was that when Lin Ming first entered the city he wasn’t a divine runic master, thus they could only determine his talent. Was any of this real?

Old Su and Old Xue looked at each other. Old Xue self-mockingly said, “Now there are two possibilities. One is that when he entered the city, there was some reason we don’t know of that he had to hide his status as a divine rune master. Either that, or he really did just start studying the divine runic arts a year ago. Of course, you could say that I’m just spouting nonsense...”

Old Su reluctantly said, “Do you think it's still necessary to investigate whether or not he started practicing the divine runic

arts a year ago? He is likely around 53-55 years old; that is far too young! But by such a young age, he opened the complete Eight Inner Hidden Gates, cultivated to the early Divine Lord realm, and even studied the divine runic arts! Moreover, from what it looks like he even has accomplishments in the soul forging system. Can you feel it? He has definitely cultivated some soul forging technique! I really have no idea how he manages his time. Even if he started practicing in his mother's womb he still shouldn't have been able to reach such heights!"

Old Su and Old Xue had no idea how to evaluate Lin Ming. But besides them, no one else knew how terrifying Lin Ming was. All they knew was that Lin Ming was an extremely splendid divine runic apprentice. Of course, he was now officially a divine runic master.

After another two hours passed, a fifth examinee finished their divine runic symbol. This person was a woman... Yue Liuxing.

This divine runic symbol that Yue Liuxing drew up hadn't been easy. During her first attempt, a brief moment of negligence had caused her to fail a third of the way in. She had gathered her thoughts and had managed to complete the second drawing successfully. After finishing, although Yue Liuxing had exhausted a great deal of her soul force she was still bubbling with excitement. Starting from today onwards, she had finally become a divine runic master. This was something she had long desired and had been chasing after!

After her examination was complete, she turned to see two other people in the hall who she cared about. One was her little brother and the other was naturally Lin Ming.

At this time, Yue Qifeng was still immersed in drawing up his divine runic symbol. His divine runic symbol was currently 80% complete but his forehead was dripping sweat and he had used up a great deal of the power of his divine soul. Success and failure both hung on a thin string.

Yue Liuxing didn't disturb him, but silently cheered on her little brother. Then, she looked towards Lin Ming, but discovered that he was already sitting in the resting area.

Because Yue Liuxing had focused all of her attention into drawing up her divine runic symbol, she didn't pay attention to anything happening around her. She was completely unaware of whether or not Lin Ming had passed, and didn't even see Clearshadow, Dreampearl, and Qin Yi's performance.

"Lin Ming, you... could you have..."

Although she found it hard to believe, as she saw Lin Ming sitting in the rest area as well as noticing the calm and idle atmosphere to him, she suspected that he had already completed his examination.

"I've finished my drawing."

Lin Ming faintly smiled towards Yue Liuxing; he had some good impressions towards this young girl.

"Draw... you finished drawing...?"

Yue Liuxing was startled. She was well aware that when they first entered the city, Lin Ming had known nothing about the divine runic arts. In fact, she was the one who had proposed they come to Divine Rune City!

How could he have only used a single year to learn the divine runic arts? Moreover, his speed was even faster than her own!

Yue Liuxing was dumbfounded by this information. She didn't even notice the white-robed Elder asking her whether or not she wanted to continue onto the second grade divine runic master examination.

And Yue Liuxing's reaction also fell into Old Xue's eyes. This left him increasingly puzzled; just what secrets did Lin Ming have on him?

"This brat should have known this Yue Liuxing girl a year ago..."

it seems that in her eyes, Lin Ming also knew nothing about the divine runic arts a year ago.”

Old Xue’s eyes were bright and vibrant. He could immediately see just what caused such a visceral reaction in Yue Liuxing.

“Yue Liuxing, do you wish to participate in the second grade divine runic master examination? The Elder asked you a question here!” A deacon testily said as he saw Yue Liuxing not responding for a long time.

Yue Liuxing jumped up as if she were shocked but quickly regained her composure. She hurriedly apologized, “Sorry, sorry, I do not wish to join the second grade divine runic master examination. Even if I joined I wouldn’t be able to pass.”

A second grade divine runic master was too distant a prospect for Yue Liuxing right now. She needed at least 10 more years of hard work.

Not just Yue Liuxing, even Dreampearl and Clearshadow knew it would be difficult for them to pass the second grade divine runic master examination.

“Mm... then you can step back.” The deacon impatiently waved his hand.

Yue Liuxing respectfully drew back, her eyes still on Lin Ming. Lin Ming smiled. He knew what Yue Liuxing was surprised about, so he said to her with a sound transmission, “I’ll talk to you about it later.”

After Yue Liuxing left, several other divine runic apprentices failed, their incomplete divine runic symbols exploding into smoke and flames in front of their faces. And at this time, six hours had already passed since the examination started. To fail now basically meant that the divine runic apprentices would no longer be able to pass. If they couldn’t complete their drawing in the first eight hours, then unless there was some divine stroke of fate and they

were possessed by some ghost, there was no way they could succeed.

These divine runic apprentices were well aware of their limits and decided to directly give up.

And within these people, the persistent Yue Qifeng seemed particularly conspicuous. His body trembled but he maintained a steady flow of soul force. After seven hours, he finally drew up his last tiny rune. Then, he fused the divine runic symbol with a god rune, forming a complete divine runic symbol.

Although this was only the most low level of divine runic symbols, it caused an abundance of joy to shine on Yue Qifeng's voice.

The moment Yue Qifeng completed his drawing he nearly collapsed to the floor. He slumped backwards in a chair, a grin spreading across his face. He couldn't even summon the energy to wipe away his sweat.

He had finally succeeded.

Yue Qifeng was 20 some years younger than Lin Ming and actually managed to become a first grade divine runic master; he could also be called an amazing young elite!

Of course, Yue Qifeng specialized in divine runic arts and wasn't too splendid in his martial arts cultivation. And with so many extraordinary individuals here today, this caused his praiseworthy performance to not be noticed by too many people.

Seeing Yue Qifeng's reaction, Lin Ming sighed with emotion. In the past when he drew up his first inscription symbol he had been about the same as Yue Qifeng.

After Yue Qifeng, another divine runic apprentice managed to complete his drawing. But after him, the dozen some remaining examinees all failed.

Thus, out of everyone present, seven people had managed to pass

the first grade divine runic master examination. As for those that had decided to participate in the second grade examination, there were only four – they were Lin Ming, Clearshadow, Dreampearl, and Qin Yi!

The Divine Runic Masters Guild was timely and decisive. The second grade divine runic master examination would soon begin!

Compared to a first grade divine runic symbol, a second grade divine runic symbol was on a completely different level!

Drawing up a divine runic symbol was divided into three main sections. The first was processing the materials, the second was to use one's soul force to draw up the materials into tiny runes. And the third part was to fuse the divine runic symbol with a god rune.

Of these three parts, the most difficult was not the second part, but the third part – fusion!

The third part was also the most essential aspect of the divine runic arts. The reason that the divine runic arts were separate from inscription technique and even far outstripped it was because of this third part, because it fused the Asura Road's Heavenly Dao into it!

Because of this, divine runic symbols were symbols that represented the Heavenly Dao.

And only in higher levels of divine runic arts would the difficulty of this third part slowly manifest. The higher the grade of divine runic arts, the more difficult the third part would be. There were many high grade divine runic arts that would fail in the face of the infinitely powerful and mysterious Asura Heavenly Dao.

As for the lowest level of divine runic symbols, the third step was only a brief detour. In truth, it wasn't too significant and at the lowest levels, divine runic symbols were nearly similar to inscription technique, whether it was in regards to their effects or fundamental nature.

However, upon reaching a second grade divine runic symbol, the difficulty of the third step would appear slightly. To a divine runic apprentice, this was a massive test!

Chapter 1567 – The Third Step

The Asura Heavenly Dao was vast and endless, impossibly complex and difficult to understand. How to make the tiny runes align with the Asura Heavenly Dao was the essence of the divine runic arts!

The first two parts of the divine runic arts were similar to inscription technique. Many divine runic masters had been studying this field for hundreds and thousands of years and they had reached the twelfth grade in the inscription technique.

In the Divine Runic Masters Guild alone, there were several twelfth grade inscription masters.

However, these twelfth grade inscription masters were at most seventh grade divine runic masters; some of them weren't even at the seventh grade. If one had to come up with a reason then that was that understanding the Asura Heavenly Dao was far too difficult. It was simply impossible to perfectly master the final third step of the divine runic arts.

There were innumerable divine runic grandmasters that had studied the Asura Heavenly Dao for their entire lives. These were the Laws that managed everything within the Asura Road, a world that stood parallel with the 33 Heavens. In terms of their complexity, they were on par with the 33 Heavens!

This was equal to an independent universe. The power of these Laws could be imagined!

In truth, even seventh grade divine runic masters were an extremely rare existence within the Asura Road. These characters were able to become the guild president of the Divine Runic Masters Guild. Such a character basically had to have an Empyrean level cultivation!

Only an Empyrean could rely upon their great strength to slightly

borrow the strength of the Asura Heavenly Dao Laws. Moreover, this was only borrowing. Although an Empyrean was an existence that had experienced heavenly tribulation and could stand equal to the Heavenly Dao, the truth was that the area on which they stood was a tiny, nearly infinitesimal part. Moreover, that was only the transcendent divine might that they established. That alone allowed an Empyrean to stand at the same height as the Heavenly Dao.

If they wanted to stand equal to the entirety of the Heavenly Dao Laws then that was simply impossible. Not to mention an Empyrean, not even a True Divinity could comprehend all of the Heavenly Dao Laws in a universe!

As for those young martial artists who had only been studying the divine runic arts for a hundred years and didn't even have a Holy Lord realm cultivation, wanting to have them borrow the Asura Heavenly Dao Laws was asking for far too much, no matter how heaven-shaking their talent was. Even though Clearshadow and Dreampearl were gifted daughters of heaven, when they were trying to complete the third step of a second grade divine runic symbol, they still had to be extremely cautious and proceed with absolute care. And even if they focused all of their attention, there would still be a high chance that they would be defeated.

Qin Yi glanced over at Clearshadow and Dreampearl, his lips curving up in a smile. The third step of the divine runic arts was what he was most confident in!

The essence of the divine runic arts was to join together the Asura Heavenly Dao into inscription technique.

In a sense, these were rune Laws that derived from the Asura Heavenly Dao.

The Asura Road could not be separated from its runes. Whether it was god runes or origin energy runes, these runes were the embodiment of the Asura Road Laws.

In terms of inscription technique skill, the Divine Void Divine Kingdom that Qin Yi came from could not compare to the Divine Runic Masters Guild.

But, in terms of understanding the Asura Heavenly Dao, the Divine Void Divine Kingdom that was ruled by a True Divinity actually surpassed the Divine Runic Masters Guild!

It was relying on this point that the Divine Void Divine Kingdom dared to state that they were no worse than the Divine Runic Masters Guild in terms of the skill of their divine runic masters.

And this was the truth. The divine runic master who taught Qin Yi could compare with the president of the Divine Runic Masters Guild in skill.

This was how important the third step was.

With his ability in this aspect, Qin Yi didn't care much about the second grade divine runic master examination. This was simply a means to prove his strength.

"Are the four of you ready?" The white-robed Elder asked, glancing over them. Clearshadow and Dreampearl were somewhat nervous. As for Qin Yi, he was calm and composed. A divine runic pen jumped into his hands, spinning above his fingertips as if it had a mind of its own. The crystalline pen seemed to reflect a brilliant light.

Facing the second grade divine runic master examination, Qin Yi finally picked up his pen. Without a doubt, this divine runic pen was some priceless treasure.

As for the last examinee, others viewed him with a bit of bias. He quietly laid out his materials and began arranging them on the table. This fellow actually surprised the white-robed Elder. A human, and a young human at that, had actually decided to join the second grade divine runic master examination. This was a truly incredible event.

The white-robed Elder traced his chin and looked at Lin Ming for another second before passing over him.

“Then... I declare the beginning of the examination!”

The time allotted for the second grade divine runic master examination was 10 hours, the same as before!

A second grade divine runic symbol naturally took a much longer time than a first grade one. To give the same 10 hour time limit was equal to increasing the difficulty of the examination.

As the examination started, Clearshadow and Dreampearl began to anxiously process their materials. From the materials they had gathered, one could guess what rune they had decided to draw up. The divine runic symbol they had chosen was – Touch of Gold.

The use of this divine runic symbol was to turn stone into gold. This divine runic symbol was essentially useless and mostly a waste of resources to make. But, divine runic masters still held this symbol in high esteem because turning ‘stone to gold’ was something that only the divine runic arts could accomplish. Without the divine runic arts, even an Empyrean would be helpless in this matter.

Thus, although this was a worthless symbol, it was a divine runic symbol that put the charm of the divine runic arts on full display!

And as for the reason that Clearshadow and Dreampearl had chosen Touch of Gold, that was because this divine runic symbol was considered relatively easy and their chances of succeeding would be somewhat higher.

As for Qin Yi, he had chosen Heart of the Medicine Furnace. This was a divine runic symbol for pills. It could greatly increase the medicinal efficacy of a pill and was considered to be in the medium-high difficulty levels of second grade divine runic symbols.

As for Lin Ming, he had chosen the Pill Resting Symbol. This was

also a divine runic symbol for pills. When placed on a powerful pill and rested for a month, it would make the properties of a pill far more temperate and the medicinal efficacy easier to absorb.

Although the name of the Pill Resting Symbol was a bit simple and rustic, in terms of how difficult it was to draw up, it was even beyond the Heart of the Medicine Furnace.

“How amusing!”

Qin Yi smiled as he saw Lin Ming choose such a difficult divine runic symbol.

He thought that the divine runic symbol he chose would be the most difficult. The other divine runic apprentices likely wouldn't even have the courage to participate in the second grade divine runic master examination, much less choose a divine runic symbol as difficult as the Pill Resting Symbol.

But Lin Ming had chosen to do so and he was also a human.

“This brat, does he really have the ability to do it? Or does he know he can't pass so he's just putting on an act?” Qin Yi glanced at Lin Ming, a playful light in his eyes. He wanted to see just what Lin Ming's performance would be like and how much of the Pill Resting Symbol he would be able to complete.

It wasn't just Qin Yi that noticed Lin Ming, but the white-robed Elder was also tracing his chin in surprise. This sort of divine runic symbol was one that many well-known senior divine runic masters didn't choose when they went through their second grade divine runic master examination. Yet, Lin Ming had made this choice even though he was a human, his name was unknown, and he didn't have any obvious background.

As for Old Xue and Old Su, they were already left speechless. This Lin Ming wasn't an idiot nor did he come here to cause a ruckus. Rather, he really was undergoing the second grade examination. And if he dared to choose the Pill Resting Symbol...

“Old Xue, you don’t think he’ll really be able to draw up the Pill Resting Symbol, right...?”

“I don’t know... don’t ask me. I originally thought that this boy’s divine runic arts talent was worse than that of Clearshadow and Dreampearl. In the first grade examination I was unable to see just how skilled he was, but after learning of his skeletal age I don’t dare to evaluate him yet. He is simply a monstrous genius!”

Lin Ming didn’t bother with everyone that was paying attention to him. He continued on at his slow and unhurried pace, processing the materials in a uniform manner. His movements were steady without any flaws to them, and the divine runic pen in his hands was like an iron chain spanning a raging river, simply unshakeable.

The reason Lin Ming chose the Pill Resting Symbol was because this divine runic symbol was worth a considerable amount of money and he would be able to sell it after he drew it up. Currently, Lin Ming’s net worth could withstand this sort of loss, but in a situation where he only spent money and didn’t earn any, he couldn’t continue like this forever. Sooner or later he would have to figure out some way to recoup his expenses.

A divine runic symbol like Touch of Gold was formed from expensive materials and couldn’t even be sold for a tiny bit of money. Lin Ming naturally wouldn’t choose such a worthless divine runic symbol.

For a second grade divine runic symbol, processing the materials and drawing up the tiny runes was a slightly more difficult process than it was for a first grade divine runic symbol. But to Lin Ming, this wasn’t hard at all.

As Lin Ming, Clearshadow, and Dreampearl began drawing, Qin Yi didn’t immediately begin. Instead, he crossed his hands behind his back and started observing everyone else, especially Lin Ming.

As Qin Yi saw Lin Ming’s steady technique, he was a bit

astonished.

“This boy, I didn’t think his skill level was much during the first grade divine runic master examination; who knew he would have some modicum of skill. However, the speed and expertise of his drawing skill is still lacking compared to my own. Moreover, the key to completing a second grade divine runic symbol is the third and final step. In this aspect, Touch of Gold is far more simple, but you decided to choose the much more difficult Pill Resting Symbol. I want to see just how you complete the third step... of course, the premise of that is if you can last until the third step...”

Qin Yi faintly smiled and began his own work.

If Qin Yi wanted to watch Lin Ming’s ‘third step’ then he would have to finish drawing up his divine runic symbol before Lin Ming started on the third step. Otherwise, with his current skill level, it was impossible for him to draw up his own divine runic symbol while watching someone else.

This wouldn’t be a problem in Qin Yi’s eyes. His drawing speed was considerably faster than Lin Ming’s.

All sorts of materials flew into the air where they were pulled apart and processed by Qin Yi’s soul force. Then, he drew out the juices of these materials with his divine runic pen, forming brilliant colored lines in the air. This was an extremely enchanting sight.

“This Qin Yi is really fierce...”

A deacon praised out loud. The white-robed Elder also nodded in acknowledgement. Even for a second grade divine runic symbol, Qin Yi was able to maintain such a smooth drawing technique like passing clouds and flowing rivers. It wouldn’t be difficult for Qin Yi to form the main body of the divine runic symbol. The crux of the examination, the most difficult part, would be the final, third step. Everything would depend on how Qin Yi fused the Asura Road’s Heavenly Dao into the divine runic symbol.

“Divine Void Divine Kingdom’s third step has always been superior to ours. This is because they have inheritances related to the Asura Heavenly Dao...”

The white-robed Elder sighed as he recalled this.

Chapter 1568 – Completing the Main Body

When it came to exploring the Asura Heavenly Dao, the Divine Runic Masters Guild was unable to compare with Divine Void Divine Kingdom.

Divine Void Divine Kingdom had an incomparably long history of inheritance!

Tens of millions of years ago, Divine Void Divine Kingdom and Divine Mist Divine Kingdom had once been a single Divine Kingdom. That Divine Kingdom was a titan. Billions of years ago, they had once produced a True Divinity level ruler!

After that True Divinity ruler died in repose, the Divine Kingdom had continued for a long time without producing a True Divinity. Even so, they remained the number one spiritus influence in the Asura Road. Every generation they would always have an extreme Empyrean master. This sort of prosperous state continued for billions of years, making their foundation incomprehensibly deep!

Thus, in terms of understanding the Heavenly Dao, the loosely organized Divine Runic Masters Guild with a mere 100 million years of history simply couldn't compare with Divine Void Divine Kingdom.

Time passed slowly. Brilliant motes of light shined in Lin Ming, Clearshadow, Dreampearl, and Qin Yi's hands. And of these people, Qin Yi's light was the most radiant!

In the resting area, Yue Liuxing and Yue Qifeng were stunned. In their impression, Lin Ming was someone who hadn't even heard of Divine Rune City a year ago. He had been a human youth who didn't even know what the divine runic arts were...

Last year, they had even invited Lin Ming to the Divine Runic Masters Guild to visit and see just what the divine runic arts were. The way that Lin Ming acted that time didn't make it seem like he

was lying at all. Moreover, the key was that there was no reason for lying to them; would anyone be so bored after eating to do something so inane?

“Could it be... that big bro Lin Ming studied the divine runic arts to this degree in merely a year?” Yue Qifeng felt as if someone struck him in the chest as he said this.

But Yue Liuxing was far calmer. She shook her head, saying, “There is definitely something that we don’t know. It might be Sir Lin’s secret and it might not be polite for us to ask him...”

Yue Liuxing could faintly feel that not asking about this matter was the best idea. Moreover, even if they asked Lin Ming he likely wouldn’t reveal anything. When Lin Ming said that he would speak to them later, that was likely only politeness on his part and he wasn’t really planning on telling them anything.

.....

Amidst the shimmering lights of divine runic symbols, an entire hour had passed.

Even Qin Yi had to be careful in drawing up a second grade divine runic symbol. Drawing up the correct structure of the tiny runes was important in determining whether or not the divine runic symbol would smoothly fuse with the Asura Heavenly Dao later.

Thus, although Qin Yi was faster than Lin Ming, Clearshadow, and Dreampearl, it wasn’t by too much.

Another hour passed.

Qin Yi’s expression was earnest. All of his concentration was completely focused on the task at hand. The main body of the divine runic symbol was nearly finished, and as he reached the end, his speed became even slower and his movements ever the more cautious. As he drew up the last tiny rune, all of the tiny runes shined in unison.

His divine runic symbol had already taken its initial shape.

All that remained was the third step, the key step to turning a quasi-inscription symbol into a true divine runic symbol!

The difference between a second grade divine runic symbol and first grade divine runic symbol was only a single grade. But on this third step, that single grade made the two as different as clouds and mud.

Qin Yi was extremely careful. His soul force controlled the thousand some tiny runes in the air, having them all maintain their current positions. Then, Qin Yi began to slowly restore and adjust his soul force, bringing himself back to a better condition so he could complete the third step.

Although Qin Yi had completed the third step fusion process many times already and was 80-90% confident he would succeed, even a 10-20% chance of failure was unacceptable to him. His pride would not allow him to fail here. He would pass the examination with flying colors.

As Qin Yi was restoring himself he glanced over at Lin Ming. He grinned as he saw Lin Ming drawing one stroke at a time, steadily and impeccably.

“Interesting! I didn’t think this little boy would have some level of skill. He’s already completed 75% of the main body’s structure and there aren’t any fluctuations in his drawing yet. If he can continue like this then he’ll complete the main body of the divine runic symbol. He might be able to accompany me for a little fun in the third step!”

Qin Yi felt a hint of interest in Lin Ming’s appearance. If he outshined all others in this divine runic master examination without anyone being able to act as a foil to him then there wouldn’t be any meaning to it at all.

Only if there was competition, only if someone had a chance to beat him, would that make things interesting.

He was looking forwards to Lin Ming's performance. He wanted to see just how much of the third step Lin Ming would be able to complete.

Like this, Qin Yi rested for a quarter hour to restore himself to his peak state. This was not an easy task to accomplish. For a low level divine runic master to hold aloft a thousand some tiny runes with even spacing between them and also maintain the circulation of energy, this was extremely difficult, let alone doing all of that and also restoring one's soul force.

"This Qin Yi can maintain concentration while relaxing at the same time. He's restored most of the soul force used up in preparation for the third step; this isn't something the average person can accomplish. It seems that this Qin Yi has already completed a second grade divine runic symbol more than once. If there isn't an accident, then he'll pass this examination without any problems..."

The white-robed Elder sighed with emotion. But, even as he praised Qin Yi in his heart he also felt a bit bitter. After all, Qin Yi came from Divine Void Divine Kingdom and they were faintly considered a competitor to the Divine Runic Masters Guild. In truth, there wasn't any major conflicts of interest between these two great organizations, but even so, whether it was martial artists or divine runic masters, one would always have the heart and spirit to outdo everyone else. They naturally hoped that there would eventually be an outcome as to who was better and who was worse.

And now that he saw a descendant of his competitors blossom in splendor in his own home ground, the white-robed Elder wasn't very happy with this taste.

As he looked over to Clearshadow and Dreampearl he could see that the two young women were only continuing with a great deal of difficulty. Even if they did complete their divine runic symbols, it would simply be something flashy without any substance at all.

How could their Touch of Gold possibly compare to Qin Yi's Heart of the Medicine Furnace?

At this time, Qin Yi pulled out a gold god rune from his spatial ring.

He recited a mantra, his hands flickering as he produced a succession of seals. In the air, a divine light came shrouding down, and then a strange scene took place.

Beneath this shining light, the gold level god rune began to break down, turning into endless mystical and profound lines that began to slowly blend together and fuse with the divine runic symbol that Qin Yi had drawn up.

This fusion wasn't immediate. Rather, it had to follow the flow of the Asura Heavenly Dao. To describe it in other words, the Laws of the Asura Heavenly Dao were joining together with the divine runic symbol, and the number of Laws that joined in as well as the degree of their perfection would be a massive indicator in how valuable and effective the divine runic symbol would be.

A grandmaster could fuse a great amount of Asura Heavenly Dao Laws in a divine runic symbol, making it so that even a fifth grade divine runic symbol could sell at the price of a sixth grade divine runic symbol.

The higher the grade of a divine runic symbol, the more time it would take to fuse in the Laws. The third step of a second grade divine runic symbol, even if drawn up by Qin Yi, would still take at least half an hour or three quarters of an hour. On average, it would take just under an hour.

But just as Qin Yi was a quarter hour into the third step, someone else had finished drawing up the main body of their divine runic symbol. This person was Lin Ming.

He was slightly faster than Clearshadow and Dreampearl.

Although he was slower than Qin Yi, Qin Yi had rested for a

quarter hour, and now that he was another quarter hour into the third step, the half hour difference was the difference between him and Lin Ming drawing up the main body of their symbols.

“He’s really done it!”

Many people were paying attention to Lin Ming. Old Xue and Old Su were nearly looking at him alone, caring about his performance even more than that of their own apprentices.

“This boy’s abilities are truly hidden deep!”

“This is unbelievable. If someone were to find out this boy’s skeletal age they might be shocked to death! I wonder just what his story is... it looks like he’s about to begin the third step. Even if he fails here, he is still a monster amongst all monstrous geniuses. And if he succeeds, that would really be...”

As Old Xue spoke here he didn’t know just what to say.

Compared to Lin Ming, the two apprentices they took in weren’t worth anything at all. Their divine runic arts skill was inferior to Lin Ming’s, and their cultivation speed was far outpaced by him.

Of course, this wasn’t because their apprentices were too lackluster but because Lin Ming was far too freakish.

At this time, the thousand some tiny runes in front of Lin Ming slowly floated about. A colorful brilliance flowed through these tiny runes, as beautiful as a dream.

Lin Ming was as calm as a placid lake. Slowly, he lifted up this elementary divine runic symbol. He ran his other hand over the table, picking up a gold god rune.

He was already prepared to begin the third step.

Chapter 1569 – Perfect Pill Symbol

“He’s directly starting the third step!?”

A deacon remarked with surprise as he saw Lin Ming not going through any adjustments beforehand. If Lin Ming took out a gold god rune now then it was clearly because he was preparing to start the fusion process.

After a divine runic master completed the main form of a divine runic symbol, they would have consumed a great deal of soul force. And, the third step was the most essential step. If one didn’t rest then their chances of success would be much lower.

“Not everyone has the ability to maintain the main form of a divine runic symbol for such a long time without incurring some errors in the tiny runes. If he cannot calmly control the main form of the divine runic symbols and the order of the thousand some tiny runes, then the longer he continues the more soul force he will use up instead. Lin Ming might not have the ability to rest at this time so completing the drawing in a single continued attempt might be better.”

Another deacon said to the previous one.

The last deacon nodded, saying, “Yes, if he has the ability to rest at this time then he should be considered a teacher within the ranks of a second grade divine runic master.”

As these two deacons were speaking, Old Xue, Old Su, and the white-robed Elder were all staring at Lin Ming. They wanted to see just what this young man would do at this step.

Lin Ming’s right hand moved and the gold god rune slowly decomposed in a halo of golden light, turning into countless mystical lines that gathered onto the main form of the divine runic symbol. These laws were the Heavenly Dao Laws of the of Asura Road.

Without a doubt, Lin Ming's understandings of the Asura Heavenly Dao far exceeded those of anyone present. In this aspect, after he thoroughly enlightened himself on the emperor jade as well as having studied the first volume of the Asura Sutra, although Lin Ming couldn't control the Asura Heavenly Dao, wanting to borrow its strength was actually an extremely simple matter.

The Law lines soon fused into Lin Ming's divine runic symbol. With Lin Ming's familiarity with the Asura Heavenly Dao, he could complete the fusion process in a mere incense stick of time.

However, Lin Ming didn't choose to do this. After all, completing the third step in a mere incense stick of time would have been far too shocking, and it might even arouse certain suspicions in those present.

Thus, Lin Ming decided to slow down his speed. This was only an examination and not a competition; as long as he finished then he was fine.

A quarter hour soon passed. Clearshadow and Dreampearl both completed the main forms of their divine runic symbol and began the third fusion step.

They were weaker than Qi Yi, so they couldn't rest before the third step like he could. For them, this last fusion step would be filled with difficulties.

After half a quarter hour passed, beads of sweat began to appear on Qin Yi's forehead. He had entered into a completely absorbed state. The Law runes were slowly pushed into the divine runic symbol. With his soul force, lasting until now was not easy.

Finally, Qin Yi fused the last Law line into the divine runic symbol. His Heart of the Medicine Furnace drawing was finally complete!

As Qin Yi felt the power of Laws gushing forth from the Heart of

the Medicine Furnace, he grinned.

He had succeeded! Moreover, the process had been relatively easy. With overwhelming superiority he had obtained the qualifications to become a second grade divine runic master and was also the most extraordinary individual in this examination.

In that moment, beams of multicolored light blossomed from the Heart of the Medicine Furnace. Qin Yi reached out for the divine runic symbol, but just as he was about to touch it, his expression froze. With disbelief thick on his features, he turned to see Lin Ming. At some unknown time, Lin Ming had also completed his Pill Resting Symbol.

After taking his divine runic symbol, Lin Ming placed it on a tray in preparation for the proctor Elder to examine it.

Lin Ming had used less than half an hour to complete this third step fusion process. It was nearly half the time that Qin Yi had spent.

Old Su and Old Xue watched Lin Ming complete the third step. The entire process was completed without any kind of thrilling, soul-struggling scene at all. Rather, he had completed the third step easily and pleasantly, the entire drawing of the divine runic symbol having been completed in a single go.

No one had expected that Lin Ming's third step would be completed in such a manner. The most difficult part of the second grade divine runic symbol was the third step, but in Lin Ming's hands, there didn't seem to be any difficulty at all.

“Is it... over?”

Old Xue and Old Sue glanced at each other. They had originally hoped that there would be some difficulties for Lin Ming in the third step and they wanted to see just how he resolved the situation, but, what truly happened had far outstripped their expectations. This inevitably caused a peculiar feeling to form in

their hearts. Was Lin Ming's third step really the same as everyone else's third step?

Two deacons picked up Lin Ming and Qin Yi's divine runic symbols, handing them over to the white-robed Elder.

The white-robed Elder looked deeply at the two examinees. The first divine runic symbol he chose to examine was Qin Yi's Heart of the Medicine Furnace.

With a single sweep of his sense, the white-robed Elder approximately understood the situation. As a sixth grade divine runic master he could nearly instantly judge a second grade divine runic symbol and what the quality was like.

“Good!”

The white-robed Elder said from the depths of his heart. Although Qin Yi's Heart of the Medicine Furnace couldn't be called perfect in every aspect, every part of the drawing process had been above average. This was truly a commendable accomplishment. This Heart of the Medicine Furnace was a considerably well done divine runic symbol that could be sold at a decent price.

“Congratulations Qin Yi, you are now a second grade divine runic master!”

Qin Yi faintly smiled after having his results confirmed by the white-robed Elder. This assessment was well within his expectations; he was confident in his divine runic symbol. What he cared about was what Lin Ming's evaluation would be like.

At this time, the white-robed Elder looked at the Pill Resting Symbol that Lin Ming had drawn up.

The white-robed Elder also wanted to see if there were any problems in this Pill Resting Symbol. Lin Ming had simply fused the Asura Heavenly Dao into this divine runic symbol far too easily.

The Pill Resting Symbol that Lin Ming drew up was three inches

long and two inches wide, just like a rectangle. The charm's surface was filled with countless mystical lines; it didn't seem like something that was drawn up by a person. Even an amateur would see that this divine runic symbol was beautiful and symmetrical.

The white-robed Elder soaked his soul force into the Pill Resting Symbol and took a mental swim through its lines. After confirming the Asura Heavenly Dao Laws that were within the symbol, the white-robed Elder took a deep breath.

Not only was the Pill Resting Symbol that Lin Ming drew up completely up to standards, but it was extremely valuable.

“Perfect...”

The white-robed Elder whispered this evaluation to himself. This Pill Resting Symbol, whether it was the processing and handling of materials, structure of tiny runes, distribution of energy, or even the final fusion of the Asura Heavenly Dao rules, everything could be called the absolute peak of perfection that a low level divine runic master could accomplish.

It was hard to imagine that this divine runic symbol had come from the hands of a human youth. Just how did this boy study? And who was his teacher?

As the white-robed Elder was appraising Lin Ming's Pill Resting Symbol, Qin Yi was noticing the expression on the old man's face. As Qin Yi saw the awe on the old man's face as well as the perfect evaluation, Qin Yi felt a surge of frustration. Without a doubt, the quality of the Pill Resting Symbol that Lin Ming drew up had been superior to his own Heart of the Medicine Furnace!

“Let me take a look!”

Old Xue impatiently walked over, nearly grabbing the Pill Resting Symbol from the white-robed Elder's hands. After sweeping through it with his divine sense, his eyelids jumped up. This boy, his abilities were truly deep...

Old Xue even suspected that the Lin Ming he saw a year ago was a different person from the Lin Ming he was staring at now.

Old Xue passed the divine runic symbol to Old Su.

As Old Su looked at it, he too was left dumbfounded.

“What a great Pill Resting Symbol. Even a fourth grade divine runic master is inferior... I have no idea how he did the fusion process. There must be some sort of trick inside.”

Old Su speculated. Old Xue thought for a moment, then said, “This boy, he isn’t a part of my Divine Runic Masters Guild...”

“We must bring him in, we have to bring him in! We definitely cannot lose such talent! If we do things right then he might even become the next Guild President!”

The Divine Runic Masters Guild was always eager to bring in more talented individuals. The Divine Runic Masters Guild was originally a loose organization, and only by bringing in more talented people would Divine Rune City become more powerful. The previous Guild Presidents of the Divine Runic Masters Guild had all been extremely noble and renowned seventh grade divine runic masters that had been fairly elected by the guild.

“Lin Ming, I want to ask you, would you like to join my Divine Runic Masters Guild?” Without Old Su and Old Xue speaking, the white-robed Elder had already asked Lin Ming.

“Do I want to join the Divine Runic Masters Guild?”

Lin Ming traced his chin, making his decision seem as theatrical as he could.

He definitely wanted to join the Divine Runic Masters Guild, after all, this was the entire reason he had come to take this examination. Joining the Divine Runic Masters Guild would make everything far more convenient for him.

First, if he joined the Divine Runic Masters Guild then he would

be able to obtain their protection. This would make him relatively more safe. Next, if he joined he would have sufficient status to contact Blood Moon and obtain the Celestial Tyrant Manual. Third, materials would be much easier to obtain in the Divine Runic Masters Guild and there would even be a discount. This was necessary for him to find the ancient pill recipes and materials needed for the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace.

Although Lin Ming had already come here with this plan, he knew that truly peak geniuses would have far more advantages if they joined the Divine Runic Masters Guild. This was because this sort of talented individual would have many other influences seeking to take them in. The inner Asura Road was an incomparably vast land and there were multiple divine runic master organizations besides Divine Rune City. For instance, Qin Yi's Divine Void Divine Kingdom, in terms of divine runic arts skills, wasn't that different from the Divine Runic Masters Guild.

Thus, Lin Ming didn't mind trying to obtain more benefits from joining the Divine Runic Masters Guild.

Thinking of this, he said, "Can I wait before making this decision? When I passed the first grade divine runic master examination I was able to continue to the second grade divine runic master examination. So, since I've passed the second grade divine runic master examination, can I continue to the third grade divine runic master examination?"

As Lin Ming asked this, Old Xue, Old Su, and the white-robed Elder all froze, their expressions stiffening. Lin Ming wanted to take the third grade divine runic master examination?

"You're saying that... you want to take the third grade divine runic master examination?"

Old Xue looked at Lin Ming with amazement. Not only were the three old men shocked but even the other examinees in the resting area, including Yue Qifeng and Yue Liuxing, were startled. It was

already incredible for Lin Ming to pass the examination for a second grade divine runic master, but he wanted to continue to the third grade examination? Really, people never gave up until they failed!

Chapter 1570 – Third Grade Divine Runic Master Examination

Normally, before a martial artist became a third grade divine runic master they would study for dozens of years or even over a hundred years of time.

The reason that the time fluctuated so much was because even as a young martial artist studied the divine runic arts, they still had to put time into cultivating. And, different people would divide their time in varying proportions. If someone invested more time into the divine runic arts then they would learn it faster than others, but no matter how much time they invested it would still take 20-30 years.

But compared to Lin Ming, who wasn't even sixty years of age, Old Xue could go crazy and still not figure out how Lin Ming had allocated his time.

How could he dual cultivate body and energy, opening the complete Eight Inner Hidden Gates and even achieving a Divine Lord realm cultivation as he even practiced the divine runic arts to such a degree?

“Are you sure you want to take the third grade divine runic master examination?”

Lin Ming nodded. “Yes, this junior only wishes to try; I am not fully confident that I will pass.”

Lin Ming was indeed unable to ascertain whether or not he would be able to successfully draw up a third grade divine runic symbol. Even if he failed somewhere he should still be close to reaching the third fusion step, and once he truly began the third step, then completing a third grade divine runic symbol shouldn't be too difficult.

The third step of the divine runic arts was Lin Ming's greatest

advantage.

If Lin Ming could become a third grade divine runic master and then join the Divine Runic Masters Guild, his status would be completely different from that of a second grade divine runic master.

Young second grade divine runic masters like Qin Yi were rare in the inner Asura Road, but they existed. Every influence was always raising a new generation every ten years, and after so much time there were bound to be some extraordinary individuals that appeared.

The reason that Qin Yi seemed so splendid here was because the Divine Runic Masters Guild would hold examinations every year, year after year. Because of this, it was not possible to concentrate the number of geniuses together. If the geniuses of the last thousand years of the Divine Runic Masters Guild were added up then that would be a dreadful number.

However, for Lin Ming, if he could become a third grade divine runic master at his young age then that would be something that might not happen in a thousand or even ten thousand years.

In this sort of situation, Lin Ming would be highly valued by the Divine Runic Masters Guild. With this status, everything would be much easier for him to do.

As for what others would do such as suspecting him or conspiring to ruin him, Lin Ming wasn't afraid of this. In terms of individual combat strength he could already fight an ordinary World King. And with Xiao Moxian's help as well as the life-saving card of Primordius Heavenly Palace, Lin Ming could calmly retreat even if he faced a middle level World King.

And if he had to face a spiritus, then Lin Ming also had the fatal divine tool that was their ultimate nemesis!

Lin Ming didn't fear middle level World Kings and World Kings

weren't like cabbages spread everywhere. Looking at the entire Divine Runic Masters Guild, a World King was at the rank of an Elder. There were even some sixth grade divine runic masters with a half-step World King cultivation.

Thus, Lin Ming had the ability to protect himself in the Divine Runic Masters Guild.

And most importantly, no one knew of his true strength. This provided an extra layer of protection for him.

“Since you passed the second grade divine runic master examination, then according to the rules of the Divine Runic Masters Guild you can choose to continue onwards to the third grade divine runic masters examination. Besides Lin Ming, does anyone else wish participate in the third grade divine runic master examination?”

The white-robed Elder looked at Qin Yi. Out of everyone else present, only Qin Yi had completed the second grade divine runic master examination, thus he also had the qualifications to join Lin Ming.

Qin Yi's complexion changed, becoming extremely ugly.

He had nearly no hope of successfully drawing up a third grade divine runic symbol.

In fact, at the start, Qin Yi had been planning to join the third grade divine runic master examination. But, this was not because he thought of passing it but because he wanted to show off his dazzling skills.

In drawing up a third grade divine runic symbol, Qin Yi could complete 70-80% of it. It was only the final step of fusing together the Asura Heavenly Dao that he could not succeed at.

But now, he had been grouped together with this freak Lin Ming. Lin Ming clearly had plans of joining the third grade divine runic master examination, so how could Qin Yi possibly join him just to

act as a foil and make him shine brighter?

He grit his teeth, remaining silent. This was the same as admitting he was withdrawing from the third grade examination.

“Mm... then it’s only Lin Ming who will take the examination? Alright then, Lin Ming, you come with me to the side room... I will allow you to rest for 10 hours in a time enchantment. Then, you can choose the materials you need. If you can complete any third grade divine runic symbol then you’ll have passed.”

The white-robed Elder said. Giving Lin Ming 10 hours to rest was more than enough.

Lin Ming didn’t want to rest for such a long time but he didn’t decline the offer. After giving his thanks, he walked towards the side room.

Allowing Lin Ming to change environments and undergo the examination in the side room was to reduce external disturbances to the lowest amount.

This was also to increase Lin Ming’s chances of passing the third grade divine runic master examination.

The white-robed Elder was secretly hoping that Lin Ming would pass the third grade divine runic mater examination. To the Divine Runic Masters Guild this would be a cause worthy of great celebration. Once this matter was passed on to the other divine runic master organizations then they would earn considerable face.

Moreover, Lin Ming would inevitably have amazing achievements in the future. After Lin Ming became some powerful and mighty figure, then this white-robed Elder would also be able to boast that he was the one who personally oversaw his third grade divine runic master examination.

.....

Lin Ming followed the white-robed Elder to a side room. After he

left, Clearshadow and Dreampearl also finished their own second grade divine runic master examinations. Unfortunately, they had both failed to complete their divine runic symbols by the tiniest amount.

In ordinary times, if Clearshadow and Dreampearl had been able to display their usual skill then they would have been able to complete a second grade divine runic symbol. But today, seemingly because the appearance of Lin Ming and Qin Yi placed a considerable amount of pressure on them, they hadn't been able to display their highest level of skill. After failing twice, this meant they had failed their examination.

Upon failing the examination, the two young women looked forlorn and depressed. Old Xue and Old Su quickly cheered them up with some words, but at this time they also discovered that Qin Yi, who had completed his second grade divine runic master examination, had an extremely ugly complexion.

What happened?

Did Qin Yi also fail?

If Qin Yi failed then that would have provided a little bit of comfort to Clearshadow and Dreampearl. But, this didn't seem likely.

“Teacher, what happened to Qin Yi? He shouldn't have failed his examination, right?”

Before this, Clearshadow and Dreampearl had both been in a completely focused state so they didn't know what had happened around them.

“Qin Yi...” Old Xue forced a smile. “He indeed passed the examination and he did so extremely splendidly. But what a pity, there is always someone stronger than the strong. Lin Ming completed his second grade divine runic symbol even more perfectly, and, what is most perturbing of all is that after Lin Ming

finished his second grade divine runic master examination he wanted to carry on to the third grade divine runic master examination. As for Qin Yi, he gave up. He likely knew he didn't have the ability to pass... this is the same as admitting that he is inferior to Lin Ming, so how could his complexion be any good?"

In Old Xue's opinion, Qin Yi's talent in the divine runic arts should be the best amongst the juniors of Divine Void Divine Kingdom. For him to be frustrated like this by one of his peers, this was definitely an attack on his mindset.

After listening to Old Xue's words, Clearshadow and Dreampearl's mouths fell open. They weren't able to respond for a long time.

"Teacher... are you saying that Lin Ming, he... he is continuing on to the third grade divine runic master examination?"

"That's right. Lin Ming should have already started his examination by now."

Lin Ming had rested for 10 hours within a time enchantment. Now that half an hour had passed, he should have started his examination by now.

"This is... the third grade divine runic master examination..."

Clearshadow and Dreampearl were both in a muddled daze. The two of them hadn't even been able to complete the second grade divine runic master examination and yet Lin Ming went straight to the third grade examination!

How could they live like this!

For a time, both of them were immensely frustrated.

Old Su saw the emotions plain on their faces, and said with a comforting tone, "Lin Ming won't necessarily pass the third grade examination. His chances of passing the third grade examination might not be higher than your chances of passing the second grade examination. Your problems were that you weren't able to display

your true skill today, but that isn't something you should be discouraged by. Instead, that Qin Yi was likely struck harder by this than you two were.”

Old Su said, nudging his head towards Qin Yi.

At this time, Qin Yi was sitting in the resting area, his face grim and cloudy as if someone in his family had died.

Although he looked like he was calmly sipping tea, his eyes were glued to the doors of the side room. It was obvious that he cared a great deal about Lin Ming's results.

Time slowly passed. In the blink of an eye, another two hours passed.

Lin Ming's examination was already halfway over.

Chapter 1571 – Divine Runic Master Prodigy

Because of the door to the side hall, Qin Yi wasn't able to see how Lin Ming's examination was going. This caused him to be especially restless. He took up his teacup and then placed it down, looking at the time throughout.

Almost three hours...

Although a third grade divine runic symbol was far more difficult than a second grade divine runic symbol, the time it took wasn't that much longer. Three hours should be more than enough to draw up the main form of a divine runic symbol.

And after the main form was the most difficult fusion step.

That was the crux for how to draw up a third grade divine runic symbol!

"This boy, he shouldn't really be able to succeed, right...?" Old Xue whispered to himself, looking again and again at the door to the side hall. "No, I must take a look at the situation myself..."

.....

At this time, in the side hall, Lin Ming's drawing had reached the most critical phase. He had chosen one of the simplest third grade divine runic symbols.

He didn't have full confidence that he would be able to pass the third grade divine runic master examination, so choosing a simpler divine runic symbol would make things a bit easier.

Beautiful tiny runes floated atop the tip of Lin Ming's divine runic pen. At this time, his concentration was completely focused and his forehead was wet with beads of sweat.

Not too far away, the white-robed Elder and several deacons were steadily watching Lin Ming's actions.

As Lin Ming became increasingly close to finishing the main form

of the divine runic symbol, all of them watched with breath abated. After that would be the most critical step! A single mistake would cause utter defeat.

At this time, a sound transmission echoed in the white-robed Elder's ears; it was Old Xue. He was requesting a projection of Lin Ming's examination.

For a spiritas martial artist, using their soul force to form a projection wasn't difficult at all. Moreover, this wouldn't affect Lin Ming's third grade divine runic master examination.

The white-robed Elder nodded once and took out a crystal ball from his spatial ring. Then, he completely recorded the image of Lin Ming's third grade divine runic symbol and projected it outside.

As this scene was projected outside, everyone suddenly stood up. Old Xue and Old Su's eyes shined with a bright light as they saw this. Qin Yi's face darkened; in the phantom, Lin Ming had already completed drawing up the main form of the divine runic symbol.

Lin Ming had taken out a blue soul level god rune; following this would be the third step, fusing together the Heavenly Dao Laws.

From a third grade divine runic symbol to a sixth grade divine runic symbol, what were used were blue soul level god runes. But, even amongst blue soul god runes there were differences in quality.

The blue soul level god rune that Lin Ming had taken out was a relatively low rank one.

With a flick of his right arm, the blue soul god rune dissolved into lines of the Asura Heavenly Dao.

Underneath Lin Ming's hands, these Heavenly Dao lines began to fuse into the divine runic symbol in a neat and meticulous order.

In the process of fusing the Asura Heavenly Dao, the slightest mistake would cause the structure of the entire divine runic

symbol to collapse. Lin Ming's movements were like a daredevil balancing atop a thin steel wire; a single mistake would wipe out everything.

“Teacher, can he succeed?”

Dreampearl asked absent-mindedly from beside Old Xue.

Old Xue earnestly said, “The third fusion step is the most difficult step in creating a third grade divine runic symbol. He has only just begun and this process should take at least over an hour. And, there cannot be a single mistake during this entire process... it's difficult to say!”

“The third step has started. Everything before this I can also do!”

Qin Yi grimly said.

He wasn't boasting either. In his normal peak condition, Qin Yi could also complete the main form of a third grade divine runic symbol.

However, Qin Yi could at most finish half of the third step. This was because the third step was far too difficult. By the time he reached the midway point, he would have greatly overdrawn his soul force. As a result, by that time he could only watch helplessly on as the structural system of the divine runic symbol collapsed in his hands.

Out of everyone present, Qin Yi was the one who didn't want Lin Ming to succeed the most. He even cursed Lin Ming in his heart, fervently hoping that he would fall short and fail during the fusion process.

Time slowly passed. One quarter hour, two quarter hours... Lin Ming's movements remained calm and steady throughout. What no one knew was that after Lin Ming practiced the Asura Sutra, his understand of the Asura Heavenly Dao had reached a phenomenal level. Although the third step was the most difficult to others, it was actually the simplest step for Lin Ming.

For a divine runic symbol, as long as Lin Ming could complete the main form then there shouldn't be any problems finishing the rest. To him, fusing in the Asura Heavenly Dao was a breeze.

However, he didn't want to be overly shocking to everyone, thus he slowed down his speed and finished the third step a little at a time.

In that moment, an hour had passed!

Lin Ming didn't have a single problem in this hour. He smoothly completed 90% of the fusion process.

At this time, whether it was the white-robed Elder, Old Xue, or Old Su, all of them held their breath. They could faintly feel that some glorious event was occurring, as if they were witnessing the rise of something momentous!

"Could... could he really succeed...?" Qin Yi's eyelids jumped up. He felt this was far too unbelievable.

After another incense stick of time, the final lines of the Asura Heavenly Dao fused into the divine runic symbol. In that instant, the entire divine runic symbol lit up with a brilliance beyond compare.

Third grade divine runic symbol – complete!

At this point, the phantom projection vanished. The white-robed Elder couldn't be bothered with maintaining it. Rather, he hurried forth to examine the divine runic symbol that Lin Ming drew up.

"This is incredible!"

Old Xue and Old Su stood up. They rushed forwards, pushing open the door to the side room to evaluate the result themselves.

Everyone followed in close pursuit, wanting to bear witness to this momentous occasion.

"How is it?"

Old Xue asked as soon as he stepped through the door.

At this time, the white-robed Elder had sunk his soul force into the divine runic symbol. After a moment of probing, he handed over the divine runic symbol.

“Take a look yourself.”

Old Xue and Old Su were already burning with impatience.

They nearly snatched the divine runic symbol as they sunk their divine sense into it. Looking around, they could clearly see the situation within. They both sucked in a cold breath of air. Not only was this divine runic symbol complete, but it was impeccable in nearly all aspects!

The two old men looked at each other in shock. Then, they turned towards Lin Ming. They no longer knew just what to say to him.

After looking at Lin Ming for a long time, Old Xue wryly smiled, “This brat, I really want to cut him open and study him...”

A year ago, Old Xue had met Lin Ming in the internal trading area of the Divine Runic Masters Guild. At that time, he never would have expected that the little kid who he didn’t even want to bother responding to would produce such a shocking event.

As Lin Ming heard Old Xue’s words, he felt they were a bit insensitive. Slice him open and study him?

He knew that Old Xue was only joking around, but it was true that his influence and relationships were lacking; this was something he was extremely sensitive about. He couldn’t guarantee that there wouldn’t be anyone in the Divine Runic Masters Guild who would have such an idea. After all, his skeletal age was a bit too conspicuous. For him to have such achievements at his skeletal age, it was inevitable that there would be some people who had their own suspicions and would want to investigate him.

If it were a World King then Lin Ming naturally wouldn’t fear

them. But, if an Empyrean were interested in him, then that would not be a good development.

“This fellow, just which divine runic grandmaster’s apprentice is he? Could it be a hidden seventh grade divine runic master?”

Old Su thought out loud, looking back into his memories. Even after thinking for some time, he still couldn’t think of such a great expert in the entire inner Asura Road. Lin Ming’s divine runic arts technique was far too abnormal.

Hearing Old Su and Old Xue’s words, Lin Ming’s thoughts stirred. That was right, he should come up with a hidden grand expert master who was teaching him.

In the divine runic arts, it was nearly impossible for someone to achieve great success without a master teaching them. Lin Ming was young and had such attainments in the divine runic arts that if he said he had no master, no one would believe him. Rather, it would be said that not only did Lin Ming have a master, but his master was disgustingly formidable. This secret master was likely a seventh grade divine runic master, an Empyrean, and perhaps even above an Empyrean!

This person must have personally taught Lin Ming and meticulously guided him through every step of the divine runic arts. When this was added along with Lin Ming’s own amazing perception and talent, only then could that legendary moment have occurred just now.

As Lin Ming realized all of this, he became willing to push things along and smooth the road, making up a master for himself.

A powerful master would give him an extra layer of safety and deter some of those people who thought of plotting against him.

In fact, if Lin Ming were to say he had a True Divinity as a teacher there would still be people that believed him. After all, whether it was in divine runic arts or individual strength, Lin

Ming far surpassed the geniuses of a True Divinity Holy Land!

Chapter 1572 – Entering the Guild

“Hey little fellow, how about we talk for a bit.”

After Lin Ming obtained the qualifications to become a third grade divine runic master, he knew that these several old geezers would have many questions they would want to ask him; this was something he couldn't avoid.

Lin Ming nodded, “Well, that's fine, we can speak in another room.”

“If you will.”

The white-robed Elder, Old Su, and Old Xue brought Lin Ming to a different room. After passing through the door, Old Xue turned and said to his apprentice Dreampearl, “The lot of you can wait outside.”

Dreampearl scratched her head, curiously looking towards the room. She also wanted to know what Lin Ming's status was but she had been blocked by Old Xue.

She pursed her lips, muttering, “It's like they are trying to keep everything a secret, what's so great about knowing anyways.”

Dreampearl sat on a stone chair, not feeling very happy. She was filled with curiosity towards this human youth that was around her age and in fact really did want to know where Lin Ming came from and how he practiced to become so formidable.

“That fellow should have a powerful master.”

Clearshadow said from beside Dreampearl.

“Definitely... and they are probably much fiercer than our masters...”

Dreampearl said without mincing her words. As Old Xue heard this just as he was closing the door, he nearly choked on himself.

“This rascally girl!”

Old Xue awkwardly coughed. He could only pretend that he didn't hear this. But, this was the truth. As he measured his own level, he felt that it was impossible for him to teach an apprentice like Lin Ming. Even an extremely good piece of jade would need a grandmaster to cut and polish it into a perfect piece of art. The level of a master was extremely important in determining the level of an apprentice.

The three old men sat in front of Lin Ming. The white-robed Elder took out a divine runic master's robe and a divine runic master badge.

"This is for you. This badge will serve as your third grade divine runic master certificate and this divine runic master robe is also the uniform of the Divine Runic Masters Guild. In the Asura Road, the styles of badges and robes differ between the varying great influences that offer them, but they are mostly the same besides some minor differences..."

"Mm, thank you."

Lin Ming nodded. He waved his hand and this robe appeared on his body.

The divine runic master robe produced by the Divine Runic Masters Guild was in essence manifestations of energy produced by runes. Whether it was putting it on or taking it off, one only needed to think it.

As Lin Ming put on the robe he could feel the surrounding heaven and earth origin energy as well as the Laws being dragged towards it. Even his soul force was being faintly nourished. It was clear that this robe wasn't some ordinary piece of clothing.

As for the badge, it was a carefully crafted magic tool that made one's soul force and mental focus more concentrated. The two objects were above the level of a medium-grade spirit artifact.

"Seniors, if you have any questions then this junior will try to

answer to the best I can.” After Lin Ming put on the dressings of a divine runic master, his tall figure perfectly accented his new clothing, making him seem ethereal and elegant.

“There are a few questions I would like to ask. What I am very curious about is just who is your teacher? No matter how much I think of it, I cannot think of anyone in the entire inner Asura Road that would be able to secretly and quietly teach an apprentice like you.”

Without Lin Ming saying anything first, the white-robed Elder directly asked Lin Ming about his teacher.

The inner Asura Road had many divine runic master organizations and they fiercely competed against each other. If they could pull a top master to join their guild, that was an event worthy of great celebration. It would be far greater than bringing in a junior like Lin Ming.

Lin Ming said, “My teacher has been living in seclusion for many years, and is unwilling to disclose his identity...”

Lin Ming had already thought up a good answer. As for the white-robed Elder, a look of deep disappointment appeared on his face. But in truth he had already anticipated this. Such a divine runic grandmaster would receive the greatest standard of reception and respect from any influence. If this person wanted to make themselves public they would have already done so. Moreover, this person might not want to join the Divine Runic Masters Guild to begin with.

Still, the white-robed Elder didn’t give up. He continued to ask, “Then let me venture another question: just what grade of a divine runic master is your teacher?”

The white-robed Elder already guessed that Lin Ming’s teacher was at least a seventh grade divine runic master. He might even surpass the current President of the Divine Runic Masters Guild.

Lin Ming said, “I apologize. It isn’t that I don’t want to say it but because I do not know what the level of my teacher’s divine runic arts has reached. According to what I know, teacher has already been in deep seclusion for 100-200 million years. Even if he were to come out of hiding, I fear that not many people would recognize him...”

Lin Ming concocted a wild story. But in this specific situation with his awe-inspiring performance just now, no matter how ridiculous his words were, those present still might believe him. This was because they truly did think that Lin Ming had such a heaven-shaking teacher.

“Seclusion... for 100-200 million years!” The white-robed Elder’s eyebrows jumped up. He looked at the two other old men, fear and awe coloring his complexion.

Old Xue gulped. Even though he had expected that Lin Ming’s teacher was extremely terrifying, if Lin Ming’s master had gone into seclusion for 100-200 million years then wouldn’t that make his true age around 200-300 million years old?

Such an age already far exceeded the 100 million year lifespan limit of an Empyrean.

Then, it was either that Lin Ming’s teacher had used some secret technique to go into deep hibernation, or that he was a True Divinity level powerhouse!

And in Old Xue’s opinion, the latter possibility was a bit more likely...

Thinking of Lin Ming’s master, Old Xue forced a smile. “I must say kid, you tricked me well. You were clearly under the guidance of a divine runic grandmaster and yet you acted like you didn’t know anything about the divine runic arts. It seems you really wanted to play around with an old man like me... by the way, when you bought that jade from me...”

Old Xue's eyes widened. He felt that he had been hoodwinked by Lin Ming once again! That jade piece of indeterminable origin might have been some sort of extraordinary treasure.

“Hey little fellow, you were quite particular in buying that little piece of jade. Why don't you tell me more about it so that I can widen my horizons...”

Old Xue puckered his lips, feeling sad. He was now 99% sure that he had sold that broken jade for a major loss!

“Jade?” Lin Ming pretended to be surprised. “Oh, I remember. A year ago I found that broken jade in your stall and thought it was some amazing ancient treasure, but after I took it to be appraised by my master the result was that I had been mistaken. Sure enough, there were no advantages for me...”

Lin Ming flippantly said. But, Old Xue didn't believe this at all. With a pained expression he said, “Come on, just tell me honestly what the jade was. I've already been conned by you so you can tell me what it is right? Since my eyes were poor I can only blame myself for that. I just want to know what use that little trinket had.”

“Senior... you've really... thought too much about this...” A cunning light flashed in Lin Ming's eyes but he concealed it well. No matter what Old Xue said, Lin Ming definitely wouldn't disclose the origins of that jade piece. This caused Old Xue to feel even more depressed. He was more and more sure that he had been bamboozled by Lin Ming, and as a divine runic master who was proud of his appraisal ability, the most painful and aggrieving matter was to be swindled by others and not know how.

Old Xue seemed to want to ask something else, but at this time the white-robed Elder dryly coughed a few times and said, “Lin Ming, let's speak about formal matters now. I want to ask you – do you have any intentions of joining my Divine Runic Masters Guild?”

This matter was the most important question that the white-robed Elder wanted to ask Lin Ming.

He originally inquired about Lin Ming's teacher because he still had hopes that there was a one-in-a-million chance he could win over Lin Ming's teacher and have him join the divine runic masters guild.

But as he expected, that wouldn't be possible. So, his most vital task now was to win Lin Ming over to join their Divine Runic Masters Guild.

For an organization like the Divine Runic Masters Guild, the most essential factor of their strength was the quantity and quality of their divine runic masters.

The reason that Divine Rune City was able to develop to its current scale was because they relied on their many divine runic masters as well a decent number of alchemists.

The more powerful and the greater number of divine runic masters there were, the more influential the Divine Runic Masters Guild would become. In particular, seventh grade divine runic masters had a great appeal, one that drew in many others. This sort of divine runic grandmaster would always be able to draw in divine runic masters from nearby regions so that they would join the Divine Runic Masters Guild out of their admiration.

At the same time, a great number of influences would rush here to cooperate with the Divine Runic Masters Guild, providing all sorts of favorable conditions for them.

Over time, Divine Rune City would become increasingly prosperous. In terms of all sorts of transactions, access to talented individuals, possession of rare and precious resources, everything would rise exponentially.

Thus, it could be said that the influence and strength of the Divine Runic Masters Guild was closely intertwined with

everyone's benefits in Divine Rune City.

If the Divine Runic Masters Guild ever declined, then Divine Rune City would exist in name only.

“You don't have to be in a hurry to respond. First, let me tell you about the advantages of joining the Divine Runic Masters Guild...” The white-robed Elder took out a handbook and handed it to Lin Ming.

“This is the internal handbook of the Divine Runic Masters Guild. It has the rules and conditions that members must abide by. If you join the Divine Runic Masters Guild then if you purchase materials in Divine Rune City, we can offer you a 15% discount. This is the highest discount and not even Elders have a better deal. Of course, new divine runic masters definitely do not receive this treatment.

“You will also possess the authority to browse the jade slips in the Divine Runic Masters Guild's library. Even if it is the most core jade slip inheritances, you will still have the ability to apply for viewing.

“In addition, every month the Divine Runic Masters Guild will give you a fixed number of contribution points. In the Divine Runic Masters Guild, these contribution points are used to purchase all sorts of rare and precious materials and they are also much handier than origin energy runes. If you have points then you have rights to purchase materials before anyone else.”

The white-robed Elder immediately put forth so many good conditions. This was the kind of treatment that the Divine Runic Masters Guild would offer to an ordinary Elder, but now all of this was promised to Lin Ming. This was because with Lin Ming's current achievements, becoming an Elder was just a matter of time. He would become a Red-Robed Elder or possibly even the future Guild President.

These conditions were also the limit that the white-robed Elder

could offer. Lin Ming was satisfied with these conditions. He thought for a moment and then said, “Junior has a matter that he would like to consult with several seniors about.”

“Speak your mind.”

Lin Ming thought about his words for a moment and then said, “According to what this junior knows, there are several nearby influences that have long-term cooperation with the Divine Runic Masters Guild... and, there is an influence that this junior is extremely interested in. They are the assassin organization known as Heaven’s Net!”

Chapter 1573 – News of Blood Moon

It wasn't a secret that the Divine Runic Masters Guild cooperated with nearby great influences. This was an extremely vital source of the Divine Runic Masters Guild's resources and wealth.

However, when it involved an assassin organization, the Divine Runic Masters Guild considered this to be a considerably taboo subject. After all, an assassin organization had many tenuous and strange connections that involved many vendettas.

The Heaven's Net assassin organization had offended many great influences and they had killed many well-known individuals. If the Divine Runic Masters Guild cooperated with this assassin organization they would inevitably have to face some pressures, thus non-core members of the Divine Runic Masters Guild wouldn't know the details of their cooperation.

As Lin Ming suddenly mentioned the Heaven's Net assassin organization, the white-robed Elder and Old Xue frowned. However, Old Su's eyes shined with a strange light.

“Do you have a grudge with someone from Heaven's Net?”

Old Su suddenly asked. Since Lin Ming was interested in them, his first thought was naturally that Lin Ming had some enmity. After all, Heaven's Net had far too many enemies; it was simply impossible for them to keep track of all of them.

“No, this junior simply wants to meet someone – one of the leaders of Heaven's Net, Blood Moon! To be honest, there is a cultivation method that I would really like to obtain which is in Blood Moon's hands.”

Lin Ming looked towards Old Su. He faintly sensed that Old Su had some sort of connection with Heaven's Net, or, at the very least he knew some of their people.

“Blood Moon...”

Old Su thought for a moment. It was hard to make out what he was thinking of from his expression.

“Old man, do you know Blood Moon?”

Old Xue asked as he saw Old Su thinking of something.

“Senior, if you know Blood Moon, then I request that you recommend this junior to them. I am willing to make a pledge on my heart of martial arts so that I won’t reveal anything related to Blood Moon’s identity.”

Everyone’s eyes turned to Old Su. Old Xue and the white-robed Elder naturally hoped that Old Su would help Lin Ming with this Blood Moon matter, because then Lin Ming would be considered as owing a favor to the Divine Runic Masters Guild.

Old Su said, “I don’t know where Blood Moon is but I do have ways to make contact. As for whether or not Blood Moon is willing to meet you, that is something I cannot guarantee...”

Lin Ming was overjoyed to hear this. He said, “Thank you Senior Su!”

As long as he could find some way to contact Blood Moon then his chances of meeting him were much higher. With Lin Ming’s current status as the youngest third grade divine runic master as well as a disciple of someone who might be a True Divinity, if this Blood Moon wasn’t too strange and eccentric then he would be willing to meet him.

After all, in the eyes of many people, Lin Ming might become a seventh grade divine runic master in the future! It would be extremely significant if they could befriend Lin Ming before he grew up.

Old Su rose and said, “Tonight I will try to find a way to send a message to Blood Moon. I should be able to obtain an answer by tomorrow. If Blood Moon is willing to see you then I can lead you there, otherwise... if Blood Moon doesn’t wish to see you then

there is nothing I will be able to do.”

Lin Ming was already more than satisfied with this answer. “Thank you Senior Su for the help. No matter if this matter succeeds or not, consider this junior to owe you a favor.”

“It’s not that big a deal.” Old Su waved his hand. “That’s right, since you just came to the Divine Runic Masters Guild you can have those two girls Clearshadow and Dreampearl show you around the area so you can familiarize yourself.”

“That’s right, there are many places in the Divine Runic Masters Guild that you don’t know of yet!” Old Xue echoed. In truth, he wanted Dreampearl and Clearshadow to be on good terms with Lin Ming. If they could get to know him then that would be greatly beneficial to their future growth.

Thus, after an incense stick of time, Lin Ming, Clearshadow, Dreampearl, as well as the brother and sister Yue Liuxing and Yue Qifeng went to explore the Divine Runic Masters Guild.

From the outside, the Divine Runic Masters Guild only covered an area of several dozen miles. But, the inside actually contained its own world.

Within the center of the Divine Runic Masters Guild there was a separate space-time that was sealed away. This was a dimensional realm, similar to the one that the Forsaken God Clan lived in within the Sky Spill Continent.

This dimensional realm was thousands of miles long and wide. After entering, the space was incomparably broad. There were majestic palaces that floated between pillowy clouds, looking grand and extravagant.

“Junior-apprentice Brother Lin, I hope that you don’t mind me calling you this...” Dreampearl sweetly said from beside Lin Ming. She had already joined the Divine Runic Masters Guild a long time before this so calling Lin Ming her junior-apprentice brother was

actually quite reasonable.

“Of course you may, Senior-apprentice Sister Dreampearl.”

Lin Ming faintly smiled. After being so easily recognized as a senior-apprentice sister, Dreampearl lit up with pleasure.

“This is the treasure storage palace. The Divine Runic Masters Guild has many rare and precious materials that are kept here. If you want to exchange for them then you’ll need enough origin energy runes, but they also take contribution points. These contribution points are the currency of our Divine Runic Masters Guild!”

Dreampearl said, pointing at a grand palace in front of her.

The palace was surrounded with enchanting landscapes, serene and beautiful.

At this time, there were many young disciples milling about outside the palace, one of them someone that Lin Ming had met before.

“Senior... Senior-apprentice Brother Luo?”

Yue Qifeng shouted out from beside Lin Ming.

This senior-apprentice brother Luo was Luo Yubai. He, Yue Qifeng, and Yue Liuxing had the same master and the three could be said to come from the same sect.

A year ago when Lin Ming first visited the Divine Runic Masters Guild, he had casually encountered Luo Yubai.

After Luo Yubai saw Lin Ming and the others he was a bit startled. His eyes quickly focused on Dreampearl and Clearshadow.

He faintly smiled. “So it’s Junior-apprentice Sisters Dreampearl and Clearshadow, and there’s even Qifeng and Liuxing, and, there’s also one more...”

Luo Yubai was surprised as he saw Lin Ming. He felt that Lin Ming looked somewhat familiar.

Martial artists had extremely good memories and even though Luo Yubai had bumped into Lin Ming a year ago, he still immediately recalled who Lin Ming was.

“You... shouldn’t be that...”

After remembering who Lin Ming was, Luo Yubai’s expression filled with incredulity. A year ago, Yue Qifeng and Yue Liuxing had brought Lin Ming to visit the Divine Runic Masters Guild and they had given him a tour of the outside. But, the place they were right now was the core region of the Divine Runic Masters Guild and it was impossible for outsiders to enter. Moreover, there was also Lin Ming’s appearance and the divine runic master badge on his chest...

That was clearly... a third grade divine runic master badge!

And Luo Yubai himself was also a third grade divine runic master!

Just how... would it be like this?

Luo Yubai was thoroughly shocked. Yue Qifeng quickly explained, “Senior-apprentice Brother Luo, Big Brother Lin Ming here has just passed the Divine Runic Masters Guild’s examination so he’s also a third grade divine runic master now!

After Yue Qifeng explained the situation, Luo Yubai was left shell-shocked. Yu Qifeng’s words were spoken so casually as if he were buying vegetables from an outside stall.

This was a third grade divine runic master examination! He had passed it so easily and had done it all in a single try!?

Luo Yubai felt as if he were lost in a dream. And at this time, Clearshadow had given Lin Ming a price list that included many precious materials of the Divine Runic Masters Guild.

Lin Ming had inherited the memories of three divine runic masters so he had a good understanding of materials needed for the divine runic arts. After casually sweeping over the list he

spotted several materials that couldn't be purchased on the outside. If one wasn't a part of the Divine Runic Masters Guild then it would be difficult to find these materials.

This made Lin Ming feel that it was an increasingly good choice that he joined the Divine Runic Masters Guild. In the future, with the backing of the Divine Runic Masters Guild it would be much easier for him to refine pills for the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace.

“How do I earn guild contribution points?”

Lin Ming asked, clearly interested.

Dreampearl said, “There are many ways to earn points. For instance, you will obtain some through a monthly salary or you can even complete missions for the Divine Runic Masters Guild. The amount of contribution points you receive will vary depending on the difficulty of these missions. You can also trade for points with others. These methods usually only give you a small number of points. If you want to earn a massive amount of points, the best way would be to contribute your own unique divine runic arts techniques.”

Many divine runic masters were self-reliant, similar to freelancers. The Divine Runic Masters Guild was a loose organization that definitely didn't want to see the other divine runic masters keep to themselves more and more, thus they had set up this provision where any person that contributed their own secret techniques would be rewarded with points.

“I understand.” Lin Ming rubbed his chin. It seemed that there were several ways for him to earn points.

As Lin Ming was doing some calculations in his mind, the flame of a sound transmitting talisman flashed in front of him.

The message came from Old Su and the contents were extremely simple – it was that Blood Moon, a leader of Heaven's Net, had agreed to meet with Lin Ming.

Chapter 1574 – Marvel Blue City

Tens of thousands of miles west of Divine Rune City, there was a vast and limitless ocean.

Above this ocean were countless islands. Some islands were several thousand miles large, and some had more surface area than a giant planet.

Among these many islands, there was a large island with a 10,000 mile radius. This island was called Blue God Island.

This island was hot and humid, lit up with sunlight. Most of it was vast tracts of lush forests.

And surrounded by these lush forests, there was a tropical nation filled with greenery. This nation was called Marvel Blue Nation and its capital was Marvel Blue City.

Marvel Blue Nation was no mortal country. This was because this area produced a type of resource called blue snow gold. Moreover, these verdant forests were also filled with ancient vicious beasts and all sorts of heavenly materials. Thus, although Marvel Blue Nation was situated in a vast ocean, most of the citizens were martial artists and it wasn't strange to see amazing top masters here.

Although its quality and quantity of martial artists couldn't compare to Divine Rune City, Marvel Blue City was still outstanding when compared to many major cities of the Divine Realm. The entire Marvel Blue Nation could be called a peak World King Holy Land.

On this day, a massive spirit boat anchored on the outskirts of Marvel Blue City. A young human man and woman leapt off the spirit boat. Then, the man received the spirit boat into his inner world.

This young man and woman were Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian,

and this spirit boat was only a disguised Primordius Heavenly Palace. After Lin Ming obtained Blood Moon's reply, he had journeyed west until he came to Marvel Blue City with Xiao Moxian. This city was where Blood Moon was located.

After arriving at this hot tropical island, the weather was extremely wet and humid. The martial artists here exuded an extremely deep and exotic atmosphere.

Most of the men wore hats tied down with cloth. They were shirtless or wore extremely short crop tops with loose pants and boots.

As for the women, they wore short, tight-fitting clothes with plunging necklines that proudly revealed their chests. They often wore bold leather skirts that revealed their slim waists and slender legs.

Some women with higher statuses had beautiful metal accessories hanging off of their faces and necks. These accessories were a metallic silver blue. This was the national resource of Marvel Blue Nation – blue snow gold.

As Lin Ming walked, he evaluated everything around him. Most of the martial artists walking outside were at the Divine Sea or Divine Transformation realm, and even Divine Lord realm martial artists weren't rare. This level of strength was extremely exaggerated. In the Divine Realm, a Divine Transformation realm martial artist possessed the ability to freely travel through the universe, and a Divine Lord realm martial artist could be the ultimate ruler of a small planet.

Soon, Lin Ming arrived at the gates of Marvel Blue City.

The tall city walls didn't seem as if they had experienced many years. Rather, they had a very new feeling to them. It seemed that this Marvel Blue City wasn't as ancient as Lin Ming had thought.

The city gates were manned by two teams of soldiers. After Lin

Ming paid the city entrance fee, he stepped inside.

According to the address that Old Su had given him, Lin Ming continued inquiring for directions along the way. Finally, he arrived in a small materials shop that seemed common and insignificant.

Within this materials shop were all sorts of materials required for the divine runic arts and alchemy. There were even furnaces, divine runic pens, and so forth.

Because these things weren't too valuable, the shop seemed quite lonely and desolate.

Lin Ming only glanced over the shop a few times without the slightest desire to purchase anything. This was because he wasn't here to buy materials to begin with.

Lin Ming quietly took off a spatial ring and stepped in front of the shopkeeper. This shopkeeper was a short and pudgy middle-aged man. His cultivation was ordinary and sloppy. If he were in a crowd, one wouldn't notice him at all.

Lin Ming traced the spatial ring and pulled out several dozen materials. Then, he said in a low voice, "I'm selling, this is a total of 1,263,400 origin energy runes."

Upon hearing Lin Ming and seeing the materials that Lin Ming had taken out, the fat shopkeeper narrowed his eyes and looked deeply at Lin Ming.

The materials that Lin Ming took out as well as his asking price were all a single code word for him to make a connection in Marvel Blue City.

"What is your name?" The fat shopkeeper asked.

"Lin Ming."

His name had already been passed to Blood Moon ever since Old Su contacted her.

“Mm... follow my person. He will bring you to the one you wish to see.”

As the fat shopkeeper spoke, an old man with eagle-like eyes brushed open the curtains leading to the back of the shop and slowly walked out.

Although this old man's movements were slow, his eyes were sharp. As he walked across the tiles, his steps were steady to the point of being startling.

“Come with me!”

The old man said, his voice sharp. It was hard to discern whether this was the voice of a man or a woman, and it was also quite harsh to the ears.

“Peak Holy Lord!”

Lin Ming judged in his heart. This old man actually possessed a peak Holy Lord cultivation, and he was even a human at that. In the Asura Road, humans were rare to begin with but in Marvel Blue Nation, over half the citizens were humans.

Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian followed this eagle-eyed old man out of the shop. From the body of this old man, Lin Ming could feel a surging essence energy. He raised his guard, remaining vigilant of his surroundings as he kept his focus on this eagle-eyed old man.

They walked without speaking. The eagle-eyed old man brought Lin Ming meandering left and right, passing through busy streets and squares, slowly approaching the center of Marvel Blue City.

Marvel Blue City covered an area of hundreds of miles and it was extremely broad. As for the center of Marvel Blue City, there was a massive and magnificent building complex! Now, Lin Ming was standing in front of this building complex.

Tall walls were manned by steely guards. As Lin Ming saw this, he was shocked. This place... could it be...?

The Imperial Palace!?

Marvel Blue Nation was not some small influence. Its sovereign was equivalent to sect masters of other large influences. This Imperial Palace was the core of Marvel Blue nation and could be called a den of crouching tigers and hidden dragons. There were many masters living in the Imperial Palace!

Lin Ming had already looked up information on Marvel Blue Nation before he arrived. Because Marvel Blue Nation was rich in great vicious beasts, medicinal herbs, and even the extremely valuable blue snow gold, the Marvel Blue Royal Family was extremely wealthy. Besides the masters in their court, there were many other elders and officers in their employ. In the event that a battle broke out, Marvel Blue Imperial Palace would have a terrifying combat strength.

Was Blood Moon in the Imperial Palace?

Lin Ming felt a bit odd as soon as he thought about it. Could there be some connection between Marvel Blue Nation and the Heaven's Net assassin organization?

The eagle-eyed old man brought Lin Ming to the back gates of the Imperial Palace. This was the smallest gate leading into the Imperial Palace but there were still 20 guards standing here.

The eagle-eyed old man lifted the plate card hanging on his belt and the guards immediately smiled, "So its Eunuch Liang. Please enter!"

The eagle-eyed old man stepped forwards past the gate, but Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian were blocked.

"These two are..."

"These two are entering the palace for business reasons. These are their sign cards. " The eagle-eyed old man continued to speak in his strange not-like-a-man and not-like-a-woman voice and tossed a jade slip to a guard.

The guard looked over the jade slip and allowed them to pass.

This scene caused Xiao Moxian to stick out her tongue at the guards. She said with a true essence sound transmission, “This old man is a court eunuch!?”

Xiao Moxian had thought that the eagle-eyed old man’s voice was a bit strange. So, it seemed that he was a court eunuch.

To Xiao Moxian, a eunuch was an extremely strange existence because this sort of occupation did not exist in Demondawn Heavenly Palace.

“Why would such a master be willing to be a eunuch? Moreover, if their cultivation has reached this boundary, then they could even regrow their body with certain top materials!”

For instance, when Tian Mingzi had hunted down Lin Ming in the Sky Spill Planet, he had severed his own hand to do so. After Tian Mingzi returned to the Skydark Holy Lands he had used secret techniques and heavenly materials to regenerate his severed hand. The only problem was that this hand had yet to be tempered so it was far inferior to his original hand.

Lin Ming was also curious. As for Eunuch Liang, who was walking in front, he seemed to guess what Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian were thinking of. He chuckled mysteriously and then said with a true essence sound transmission, “You two are dual cultivation companions, right?”

Upon hearing this question, Xiao Moxian was startled. Then, she confidently said, “That’s right!”

“Hehe, for you to find an appropriate dual cultivation companion to increase your cultivation speed is your good fortune! However, while you may have heard of nourishing yin with yang and yang with yin, have you ever heard of locking in your essence energy to nourish yourself? In this world there are some martial arts where one must cut off their own manhood before one can cultivate

them! Us eunuchs who sever our seven affections and six desires are perfectly suited to practice this type of martial arts! The average person must give vent to the physical temptations of the flesh, but for us, we can reverse this process, locking in our essence energy within our body. Slowly, our essence energy will accumulate, filling us with daily energy and bestowing upon us plentiful physical strength.

“Some people who wholeheartedly pursue the peak of martial arts would castrate themselves to establish their own unrivalled martial arts. Even on this road there are still transcendent divine mights! And in our Marvel Blue Imperial Palace, there are over 1200 eunuchs. What we practice is the Sunflower Melody, a transcendent divine might that was established by someone who castrated themselves and became an Empyrean!

“When ordinary people cultivate martial arts, those who fail are innumerable. But, when we eunuchs cultivate the Sunflower Melody, we can produce masters at a rate countless times higher!”

Eunuch Liang said, clearly filled with pride. Indeed, the road of martial arts had extremely high standards and not everyone had the ability to cultivate. But, if one chose to cultivate the Sunflower Melody, the restrictions were far lower.

However, there was one caveat. For someone who cultivated the Sunflower Melody, if they ever developed the desire towards men and women and no longer wished to be a eunuch, they could restore themselves with heavenly materials but this would mean that all the martial arts they cultivated would be wasted.

But in the legends, if one was able to practice the Sunflower Melody to the highest levels and reach the extreme Empyrean boundary then they could still regenerate their body and have their physical flesh reach perfection. But, this was far too distant a matter. For the average person, an Empyrean was nothing but a fairy tale.

Upon listening to Eunuch Liang, Lin Ming was left stupefied. The roads of martial arts of the 33 Heavens were endless and infinitely varied. The cultivation methods consisted of every possible thing that the mind could imagine!

However, Lin Ming didn't have the thoughts to think further about this. What he came here for was Blood Moon. He asked, "Eunuch Liang, this junior would like to know, is honored Blood Moon in the Imperial Palace?"

"Hehe, honored Blood Moon is certainly in the Imperial Palace, or what would I have brought you here for? Just follow me and you'll be fine. I'll bring you there!"

Chapter 1575 – Imperial Concubine Moon

Marvel Blue Imperial Palace was extremely broad within; there were over 108,000 houses in it. Many imperial palace layouts were similar to those of mortal imperial palaces.

At the front of the Imperial Palace were the formal halls. There was the Heaven and Earth Hall, Primal Chaos Hall, Spiritual Cultivation Hall, Golden Dragon Hall, and over a hundred other such halls. When the Emperor met with his royal advisors and ministers he would do it in these halls.

But at the back of the Imperial Palace was the harem. This harem had over 3000 occupants. Every concubine was beautiful, graceful, and incomparably enchanting.

In the world of martial artists, a martial artist would found their own influence to create their own sect and become the sovereign. As for those martial artists like the Marvel Blue Emperor who chose to found their own country, construct their own Imperial Palace and make themselves an Emperor, that was somewhat rarer.

In the Imperial Palace there were at least 18,000 imperial guards, 20,000 palace maids, and 10,000 court eunuchs. When Eunuch Liang said there were 1200 eunuchs, he had been referring to those who had the qualifications to cultivate the Sunflower Melody. These eunuchs were supervisors and leaders of the other eunuchs.

As Lin Ming walked forwards he saw many of these chief eunuchs. They were at the Divine Transformation or Divine Lord realms, with some even at the Holy Lord realm. Those at the Holy Lord realm wore different clothing. They wore yellow robes, indicating a higher status of court eunuch.

Lin Ming rubbed his chin as he saw this. In the Imperial Palace, just the military force of the eunuchs was considerably terrifying. He wouldn't be surprised if the head chief eunuch was a World

King powerhouse.

As they followed Eunuch Liang they were stopped at several more checkpoints. At each checkpoint, Eunuch Liang would take out different tokens. As they passed through an arched door, Lin Ming smelled the intoxicating scent of perfume and the clear atmosphere of women. This left him startled. This was clearly... the Marvel Blue Imperial Palace Harem!

Looking at the various palaces here and the many carvings of phoenixes, the architectural style here was much simpler and more composed. The paths were lined with red carpets and groups of charming maids carried lanterns and trays of fruits and they shuttled back and forth throughout.

“Harem...”

A strange color came over Lin Ming’s face. According to common reasoning, the harem was a restricted area. Besides eunuchs, no other men were allowed entry. Did these usual rules not exist in Marvel Blue Imperial Palace?

As Lin Ming was thinking, Eunuch Liang brought Lin Ming to an elegantly modeled courtyard. The palace in this courtyard was carved from jade and the gardens were planted with lush plants. There were all sorts of heavenly treasures and exotic flowers planted in the garden.

Above the entrance to this courtyard was a large plaque – Full Moon Hall.

These three words were written in a flowing and beautiful script; they clearly came from the hands of a woman.

Lin Ming followed Eunuch Liang into Full Moon Hall. As soon as they entered the rooms he was able to smell the faint scent of light powder. In Full Moon Hall, even within the guest rooms, everywhere was filled with fine red silk, screens of peacock feathers, and velvet carpets. This could be called an opulent

aesthetic that was pleasing to the eyes.

In this hall, above a large expanse of red silk, there was a woman in a red skirt, dancing barefoot.

This woman's red skirt seemed connected to the silk beneath her, making the entire hall look as if it were lit on fire. Her skin was pure white, like the most perfect jade, and her smooth hands were as fine as orchids. When joined with her slender arms, her movements were gentle and glamorous.

The woman's legs were wrapped in a long gauzy skirt but one could still make out her perfect curves beneath the slinking fabric. Although she wore a long red skirt, she actually wore the common clothing of the Marvel Blue Nation. She wore a tight-fitting top that revealed her waist and stomach, and as she waved about she undulated like a snake, flexible and fascinating.

This woman's charms were extreme to the limit. However, her face was covered by a veil so it was impossible to see her facial features.

After this woman danced for a quarter hour she finally stopped. She wrapped herself in a heavy shawl and sat down in the honored seat. Eunuch Liang bowed to her and said, "This old servant greets Imperial Concubine Moon."

Lin Ming was stunned upon hearing this – Imperial Concubine Moon?

"This shouldn't be..."

A bizarre thought appeared in Lin Ming's mind, one that he found hard to react to for some time. But as he joined this together with where he was and what he had seen and heard, this was the most reasonable conclusion.

Without needing Lin Ming to say anything, Imperial Concubine Moon spoke up. She turned to Lin Ming and said, "You have come to me to seek out a cultivation method manual?"

“Yes.”

Lin Ming was darkly shocked. Blood Moon, one of the leaders of the Heaven’s Net assassin organization was actually Imperial Concubine Moon of the Marvel Blue Imperial Palace. Just what was going on here?

Imperial Concubine Moon, Blood Moon, Full Moon Hall...

These three terms all shared the ‘moon’ word. For Imperial Concubine Moon to be Blood Moon was the best explanation.

Then, could it be that the chief leader of Heaven’s Net was the Marvel Blue Emperor?

Lin Ming immediately shot down this thought as soon as it appeared.

Marvel Blue Nation had bountiful resources and considerable national military strength; it simply wasn’t worth it for the emperor to work as the chief leader of an assassin organization in his spare time. In an assassin organization, the core figures would always hide their identities in order to avoid being targeted by others who wanted to retaliate against them.

For an influence like the Marvel Blue Nation, the gains simply weren’t worth the losses. This was because it was possible that their identity could be uncovered by others if there were enough clues and traces. If their real identity was exposed and multiple enemies targeted them then the entire nation could be wiped out overnight!

If Heaven’s Net didn’t have some close relationship with the Marvel Blue Nation then there could only be one explanation as to why Blood Moon was here. That was that her status as Imperial Concubine Moon was only one of her identities and her true status was hidden.

But if this was true, there were even more questions.

Blood Moon was clearly extremely secretive about her identity as

Imperial Concubine Moon, so why would she expose herself and let Lin Ming know who she was?

Of course, even though Blood Moon revealed her identity, she still wore a veil, making it so that one couldn't see her face.

In fact, even her cultivation was hidden. Lin Ming simply wasn't able to see through it.

This was something common for a leader of an assassin organization.

As all these thoughts flashed through Lin Ming's mind, Imperial Concubine Moon seemed to know what he was thinking. But, she didn't explain, instead smiling and saying, "Which cultivation method of mine did you want?"

Lin Ming awoke from his thoughts. He composed himself and honestly said, "The Celestial Tyrant Manual's Nine Stars of the Dao Palace section!"

As soon as Lin Ming spoke, Imperial Concubine Moon's complexion changed. "Celestial Tyrant Manual!?"

"Yes." Lin Ming nodded. Although he was curious about Blood Moon's identity, he didn't ask her. It was impossible for her to answer him nor did he expect her to.

"You know I possess the Celestial Tyrant Manual?" Imperial Concubine Moon's eyes narrowed, as if she wanted to see through Lin Ming. Lin Ming calmly looked back at her. After an incense stick of time, she suddenly nodded and said, "That's right, there were some other people that knew... I never thought that you would be able to find out, but you must have asked Heaven's Secret. Heaven's Secret..."

A cold light flashed in Imperial Concubine Moon's eyes. No one liked having their own information being traded around by others. In a way, the intelligence organization Heaven's Secret and the assassin organization Heaven's Net were the same. Both of them

were extremely unlikable to certain people and it was easy for them to offend others.

“Celestial Tyrant Manual... so you actually dual cultivate body and energy. You have opened the complete Eight Inner Hidden Gates and have even managed to peer into the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace. That is quite... incredible!”

Imperial Concubine Moon whispered, her eyes still locked onto Lin Ming. But, Lin Ming remained composed throughout. Although Imperial Concubine Moon had covered her appearance with a veil and even her inner world was covered with a fog so that he couldn't see into her, Lin Ming could still faintly feel that she was a human.

As a human martial artist, she would have a thorough understanding of how difficult the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace was.

“If you want the Celestial Tyrant Manual's Nine Stars of the Dao Palace section, that is possible. But, you need to put forth sufficient conditions!”

Imperial Concubine Moon spoke straight to the point. The reason she was willing to see Lin Ming was because she valued something that he could offer her.

“If it is within reason, then please say it Imperial Concubine Moon!”

Lin Ming certainly didn't think that Imperial Concubine Moon would give him the Celestial Tyrant Manual for nothing. That was a transcendent divine might! If he wished to obtain it then he would have to pay a high enough price.

Now, it would depend on what Imperial Concubine Moon wanted from him.

Chapter 1576 – Blood Moon’s Conundrum

Imperial Concubine Moon sat down on a couch and bid a servant to steep a pot of tea before waving for Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian to also take a seat. Then, she slowly said, “I heard that Sir Lin Ming had a teacher whose cultivation is above the Empyrean realm?”

As Imperial Concubine Moon said this, Lin Ming finally understood what she wanted. No wonder she was willing to see him; it was because she had the idea to connect to his teacher through him.

She needed help from the ‘master’ that Lin Ming had conjured up on a whim, a master that didn’t even exist.

Lin Ming thought for a moment. Then he said, “What is the matter? Must it need my master to emerge from seclusion? Can it not be me?”

“You?” Imperial Concubine Moon gently shook her head. Her cherry red lips opened as she said, “You are far too weak...”

“How do you know if we are weak or not?” Xiao Moxian mumbled, not feeling very happy at these words.

Imperial Concubine Moon lightly chuckled as she heard this. She had taken Xiao Moxian’s remarks as the spirited and self-confident nature of a junior. “Lin Ming, I sincerely hope that... I can obtain your master’s help. I am willing to offer the entire Celestial Tyrant Manual! But, let me give you a word of caution. The Nine Stars of the Dao Palace is a road that defies the will of the heavens. Try not to be too stubborn about these matters.”

Imperial Concubine Moon advised with good intentions. Lin Ming faintly smiled. “Thank you for the advice, but... I’m afraid my master... will not meet you.”

Imperial Concubine Moon pressed her eyebrows together. “Why...?”

In truth, she also thought that if the status of Lin Ming's master was too high then he truly wouldn't want to meet her. After all, she was nothing but a small and unimportant nobody to an extreme Emphyrean. And to a True Divinity, she was nothing more than a speck of dust.

However, she didn't believe that Lin Ming had a True Divinity level master. In the entire Asura Road, if one counted all the rumors, those that were either dead or alive, or those that had gone into seclusion for hundreds of millions of years and could never be found, even if all of these factors were added together there were only several True Divinities. If a junior she casually saw was the last disciple of a True Divinity then she felt that was far too unbelievable.

"Is that so... then, Lin Ming, you've come out to adventure and gain experience all by yourself? Your master has washed his hands of you?"

When a master taught their apprentice, although they would do their best, sometimes they wouldn't be willing to do everything for them. These masters would allow their apprentices to roam free without any interference. Only like this would the apprentice experience the trials and tribulations of the world and grow through being tempered.

If Lin Ming was in such a situation then it would be impossible for Imperial Concubine Moon to request help from Lin Ming's master.

Lin Ming didn't confirm or deny anything. Instead, he asked, "Why don't you tell me what you need? Perhaps I will be able to help you."

"You?" Imperial Concubine Moon looked at Lin Ming and shook her head again. "Unless you have an extremely mighty martial artist that can help you, there is no way for you to help me. This is because my troubles are extremely great and involve a battle

between World Kings. You two are far too young. If you are involved in my mess then you will only be killed!”

“Then why don’t you tell? If I cannot help you then I naturally will not try to force it.”

Lin Ming insisted, not giving up. He needed to obtain the Celestial Tyrant Manual at all costs.

“Alright...” Imperial Concubine Moon was silent for a moment. Then she stood up and said, “Follow me to my chambers.”

Imperial Concubine Moon was tall and slender, only slightly shorter than Lin Ming. With her proud figure accentuated by her long skirt, it surrounded her with the atmosphere of a woman who renounced the world and stood above others. Although her face was masked by a veil, one could still see the faint but perfect outline of her face. Above her nose hung a chain of red crystals that only served to add bit of mystery to her.

The chamber that Imperial Concubine Moon mentioned was located in a separate time-space deep beneath the ground. There was a solid soundproofing array formation here. If one was within it, then even a half-step Empyrean wouldn’t be able to listen in.

Eunuch Liang did not follow. In the chamber, only Lin Ming, Xiao Moxian, and Imperial Concubine Moon were present.

“I am Blood Moon – you should have already guessed this by now.”

Imperial Concubine Moon sat down in a spacious stone chair before motioning for Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian to also sit.

She lifted her hands and dexterously picked up a pot of tea, pouring a cup for Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian. If Imperial Concubine Moon hadn’t heard of Lin Ming’s awe-inspiring performance at the Divine Runic Masters Guild and knew he was an amazing junior of his generation then it would have been impossible for her to treat him with such courtesy.

“I did guess your identity, but I was still surprised. I originally thought that Blood Moon was one of Imperial Concubine Moon’s secret identities, but the more I thought about this the less likely it seemed...”

“Oh? Why do you think that’s not possible?” Imperial Concubine Moon smiled.

“Because if Imperial Concubine Moon wanted to see us then you could definitely conceal your identity and leave the palace. You wouldn’t even need us to come to Marvel Blue Nation and could just meet us with your identity as Blood Moon. If so, then we would have only known you as Blood Moon and wouldn’t know of your identity as Imperial Concubine Moon. For you, this would be far safer. I don’t think there is anything I have done yet or shown that would have you place so must trust in me.”

Lin Ming slowly explained. Imperial Concubine Moon nodded, saying, “Continue on.”

“Mm... so I guessed that Imperial Concubine Moon is not your true identity but only a temporary one. Only like this would you meet us without caring for us knowing your identity. The only thing I’m not clear about is why you have such authority in Marvel Blue Imperial Palace that you can have others leave and enter as they please. And, does the emperor of Marvel Blue Nation have any relations with the Heaven’s Net assassin organization?”

Lin Ming’s words evoked a smile from Imperial Concubine Moon. A look of appreciation flashed in her eyes. “Your analysis is quite good. Imperial Concubine Moon is indeed a temporary status of mine, and Marvel Blue Nation and Heaven’s Net only have cooperative relations with each other. The reason I entered Marvel Blue Imperial Palace is in truth to accomplish a mission. I am not any Imperial Concubine Moon. That is a title especially bestowed upon me by the Marvel Blue Emperor in order to make my mission easier.”

As Imperial Concubine Moon spoke, Lin Ming nodded in understanding, suddenly aware. “So that’s how it is. Then, Imperial Concubine Moon’s employer is the Marvel Blue Emperor?”

“You could say that.”

This brief exchange finally explained the suspicions in Lin Ming’s mind. But, this was also reasonable. Imperial Concubine Moon was only a fake identity and Lin Ming still had no idea as to what Blood Moon’s true identity was. That veil around her face still wrapped her with a sense of mystery.

“Then how difficult are Imperial Concubine Moon’s troubles? Is there anything I can do to help?”

Lin Ming asked. This was what he wanted to know.

Imperial Concubine Moon hesitated for a moment and then said, “My Heaven’s Net organization has had some changes occur internally. Because of this, someone is trying to harm me. This person has a World King cultivation and many helpers...”

Imperial Concubine Moon lightly said, not revealing anything further. This was because if she spoke more then she would have to reveal some inner secrets of Heaven’s Net, and these were not secrets she could speak of to Lin Ming. This was because she didn’t have much hope that Lin Ming would be able to help her.

“World King...”

Lin Ming thought for a moment. World Kings were divided into ordinary World Kings and Great World Kings. If one simply said the term World King then they were usually referring to an ordinary World King.

Of course, ordinary World Kings were still divided into the weak and the strong. Lin Ming could deal with a weaker World King, but it wouldn’t be easy for him to handle a formidable World King.

“If it is only an ordinary World King then Imperial Concubine

Moon shouldn't need to fear too much..."

Lin Ming looked at Imperial Concubine Moon. From the information that he had gleaned, this Imperial Concubine Moon was also a World King powerhouse, otherwise she simply wouldn't have the ability to become a leader of Heaven's Net.

And, as one of the leaders of Heaven's Net, even if there was some inner turmoil within Heaven's Net there should still be those that supported her. She should have the ability to compete for control.

If everyone became hostile to Imperial Concubine Moon after the change within Heaven's Net, then it could only be said that her relations in Heaven's Net were far too pathetic.

As Lin Ming mentioned this, Imperial Concubine Moon sighed. "My situation isn't as good as you think it is."

As Lin Ming heard this, his thoughts stirred. He couldn't help but meet Imperial Concubine's eyes for several moments. To probe her body with his sense was extremely impolite, thus Lin Ming hadn't done so. But now that he listened to her, he seemed to realize something.

"It seems that Imperial Concubine Moon is... wounded?"

Imperial Concubine Moon sighed. She self-mockingly laughed, saying, "There have been many matters that have occurred these past few years. In the face of benefits, many people will choose betrayal... and now, the situation I am in is very bad..."

"I about understand what is happening..."

Imperial Concubine Moon's explanation was short, but Lin Ming was able to faintly make out what was happening. This difficulty of hers should be some sort of internal struggle within Heaven's Net.

"Then I will bid my farewells. I shall return to visit tomorrow." Lin Ming didn't immediately reply. He needed some time to think and ready himself.

“Mm, if you wish to see me tomorrow, then follow the same method as today.”

Imperial Concubine Moon said, not seeing her visitors out. As soon as Lin Ming left, a figure flashed within the chamber and Eunuch Liang appeared.

“Miss, should I follow them? I feel that it is extremely unusual for them to suddenly appear at this time...”

Imperial Concubine Moon said, “No need. He shouldn’t have been sent by the other side. There is no reason for Old Su to deceive me. And, this Lin Ming is indeed a young and talented divine runic master. Although others in the organization must harm me there is no way they have the ability to find this type of genius to be their helper. He really should have come here for the Celestial Tyrant Manual. Since he has opened the complete Eight Inner Hidden Gates he has more than enough motive to seek out the Celestial Tyrant Manual. Of course, it is impossible for him to successfully practice the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace...”

Upon mentioning the Celestial Tyrant Manual, Eunuch Liang’s thoughts stirred. He said, “Isn’t this Celestial Tyrant Manual something that Miss brought from the Divine Realm. If this matter becomes too widespread, then would Miss’ blood enemy in the Divine Realm become involved?”

As Eunuchs Liang brought up the topic of her personal enemy, Imperial Concubine Moon took a deep breath as a thick killing intent flashed in her eyes!

Within Heaven’s Net, because their big boss was missing, the things that were left behind had caused tremendous turmoil due to the layers upon layers of entangled benefits. Even one of her trusted subordinates had betrayed her and wounded her at a critical time. But even so, she hadn’t developed a deep hatred towards this person.

However, when it concerned her enemy in the Divine Realm, she

wished that she could eat his raw flesh and drink his blood!

Chapter 1577 – Life-death Seclusion of the Emperor

Eunuch Liang was one of the chief eunuchs of Marvel Blue Imperial Palace as well as a trusted subordinate of the Marvel Blue Emperor. In the past, Blood Moon had done a favor for Eunuch Liang and there was even some friendship between them. The reason that Blood Moon came to Marvel Blue Imperial Palace was also because Eunuch Liang brought both sides together. Although Blood Moon could be said to be on a mission, the truth was that this was more a form of asylum. In Marvel Blue Imperial Palace, Blood Moon would be able to obtain some protection. Even so, she would have to return to Heaven's Net sooner or later. That was where she had placed so much effort in these years to establish her own business and foundation, and there was also something there she needed to retrieve.

Before Blood Moon entered the harem, Eunuch Liang had referred to her as 'miss'. But now, he also referred to her as 'Imperial Concubine'. Eunuch Liang was faintly aware that Blood Moon came from the Divine Realm and she also had a blood enemy there, one that she was absolutely irreconcilable with.

Blood Moon had hidden her identity and had come to the Asura Road alone to temper and gain experience. In the end, she had become one of the leaders of Heaven's Net. All of this was because of this blood enemy of hers. She needed to take revenge for all her grudges, but, it seemed that Blood Moon's enemy had a cultivation at the Great World King realm. With her current strength, she simply wasn't his match.

In these years, Blood Moon had desperately cultivated, seeking all chances regardless of how dangerous they were. However, even though she made progress, her enemy also made progress. It was hard to say whether or not she would be able to catch up to him in

her lifetime!

As this irreconcilable blood enemy of hers was mentioned, a thick and profound killing intent flashed in her eyes, only fading after a long time. In this world there were few things that could cause her to lose her composure, but, this enemy from the Divine Realm was one of them.

She calmed her mind and no longer thought about the hatred of the past. She said, “Eunuch Liang, I heard that His Majesty will be entering life-death seclusion in the next few days; is this news true?”

Eunuch Liang sighed as the topic of the Marvel Blue Emperor’s closed door seclusion was mentioned. “It is necessary seclusion... His Majesty follows the Heavenly Dao and has a great destiny upon his body. I only hope that during this seclusion, His Majesty will be able to make another breakthrough and live forever...”

Although Eunuch Liang said this, his tone and expression indicated that he wasn’t too optimistic that the Marvel Blue Sovereign would be able to successfully pass this closed door seclusion.

As for Blood Moon herself, she definitely didn’t expect that the Marvel Blue Emperor would be able to prolong his life. His fires of life had flickered out and he was at the end of his rope. If he were to make another breakthrough here then that would truly be violating the Heavenly Dao!

If the Marvel Blue Sovereign could have achieved this then he would have already broken through the shackles of a World King and become an Empyrean. He wouldn’t be like he was today, desperately struggling with his life on the line.

Blood Moon also knew that a hundred years ago, the Marvel Blue Emperor had realized he didn’t have much time remaining on the mortal coil. He had even attempted to open the final smelting trial of the Asura Road, but, he had been too old and wasn’t able to

obtain the qualifications to enter. Then, the Marvel Blue Emperor had gathered a group of top masters to explore one of the forbidden death zones of the inner Asura Road – the Forbidden Divine Barrens. He had hoped to seek out some immortal medicines but in the end he remained disappointed.

By then, the Marvel Blue Emperor had done everything he could. His strength weakened by the day and his life's essence energy continued to fade from him, even as his boundary dropped. Now, at death's door, he had chosen to enter life-death closed door seclusion. There was simply no chance of him making another breakthrough. Without a doubt, his chamber would become his grave.

Blood Moon didn't think that the Marvel Blue Emperor would be able to cross this tribulation. What she cared for now was with the Marvel Blue Emperor in life-death closed door seclusion, just who was managing the affairs of the nation?

“Eunuch Liang, with His Majesty in seclusion, who is managing the nation?”

“According to the laws and customs of the court, the Empress is the one wielding the imperial jade seal to serve as temporary manager of national matters. Once His Majesty leaves seclusion then the imperial jade seal will be returned to him. If there is some accident and His Majesty doesn't leave seclusion, then the Empress will pass the imperial jade seal on to the new Emperor...”

Blood Moon frowned upon hearing this. If the Empress was the one holding power, then this wasn't good news to her at all!

Eunuch Liang seemed to guess what she was thinking. He said, “Although the Empress is the one managing the national affairs, she still won't act unreasonably. Miss, please feel relieved...”

“Mmm... I hope that is true...”

Blood Moon said. She rubbed her temples. There were far too

many things that had happened in these last few years, making her feel exhausted as if she couldn't keep up with it all!

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After two days there was still no movement in the Imperial Palace. And on the third day, Lin Ming returned once more to Full Moon Hall.

During these two days, Lin Ming had kept himself busy. He had inquired about a great deal of news.

He knew now that the Emperor of Marvel Blue Nation had a Great World King cultivation. However, his life was nearing its end and he didn't have much longer to live. He would die in his chambers soon.

With the old Emperor soon to die, this brought about the matter of establishing a new Emperor.

During the Marvel Blue Emperor's long life, he had over a thousand children. When his grandchildren and great grandchildren were added on, this number rose exponentially higher.

Of these many descendants, only two of them had the qualifications to become the new Emperor.

These two people were Prince Marvel Shen and Grandprince Marvel Snow.

Prince Marvel Shen was older and his cultivation was at the peak Holy Lord realm. During these years, he had developed and amassed a considerable amount of influence and power.

As for Grandprince Marvel Snow, he was younger and his cultivation was at the early Holy Lord realm. He could be considered a promising young man, and his talent even surpassed that of Prince Marvel Shen. As for the power he had developed, it was much smaller. Now, both Marvel Shen and Marvel Snow had their supporters; it was hard to say whose hands the throne would

fall into.

And, there was one piece of news that Lin Ming paid particular attention to...

Blood Moon, also known as Imperial Concubine Moon, had been gifted to the Marvel Blue Emperor by Grandprince Marvel Snow.

When Marvel Snow gifted Blood Moon to the Marvel Blue Emperor, the Marvel Blue Emperor's lifespan was already coming to its natural end; he had no wants or desires to take in a new concubine. But even so, the Marvel Blue Emperor had given Blood Moon the title of Imperial Concubine Moon. Without a doubt, this was because the Marvel Blue Emperor wanted to help Marvel Snow increase his influence.

Lin Ming suspected that the Marvel Blue Emperor intentionally did this to blur the official choice of successors. He wanted the prince and grandprince to struggle for the throne so that the most qualified one would be able to occupy it!

This was also a reasonable matter. The reason that the Marvel Blue Emperor was able to sit steadily on his throne was his own strength. But, for the next emperor, they would either need a World King level of strength, or they would need to have the means and methods to rule as well as the ability to amass and develop their own influence! Only by accomplishing these two matters to their fullest extent could one rule their own nation!

“Lin Ming, what do we do now?”

Xiao Moxian asked. She was sitting on a bench in Full Moon Hall, her elbows resting on a table as she propped up her chin. She was a little bit worried. They had already been in Marvel Blue Nation for so many days and yet they hadn't even seen a hint of the Celestial Tyrant Manual.

“There's nothing we can do for now. We can only wait.”

Lin Ming replied simply. He didn't seem to be in a hurry at all,

but the truth was that even after he returned to Full Moon Hall, although Blood Moon had been willing to see him again, her attitude towards him had clearly been much more distant.

In Blood Moon's opinion, although Lin Ming was an outstanding young elite worth befriending and who would also have a limitless future, that was something far off from now. He simply didn't have the ability to help her solve her current troubles.

Right now, Blood Moon was within Marvel Blue Imperial Palace. She faced layers upon layers of pressure. Not only did she have to attend to the internal struggles within the Imperial Palace, she also had to be on guard against the turmoil that was rocking Heaven's Net!

Moreover, because Blood Moon had been betrayed by a close subordinate of hers, she had received a wound that had yet to heal, making matters even worse!

In Blood Moon's eyes, if Lin Ming's master was willing to help then solving her problems would be as easy as lifting their hand. However, if Lin Ming's master wasn't willing to help, then just a junior like Lin Ming alone wouldn't be of any assistance to her.

Thus, the second time that Lin Ming came to Full Moon Hall, she had only politely summoned him. She had a young eunuch lead Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian to a side hall and basically didn't see him at all.

Like this, five days passed. Lin Ming still hadn't seen Blood Moon.

And in Full Moon Hall, Lin Ming wasn't even able to walk as he pleased. After all, there were women everywhere and if he wasn't careful he would see far too much of their bodies.

Things continuing like this was not a plan.

However, Lin Ming was clear that if he couldn't put out some sort of condition that could move Blood Moon, it was simply

impossible for him to borrow her transcendent divine might for any period of time.

Thus, Lin Ming didn't even mention the matter of the Celestial Tyrant Manual. He peacefully stayed at Full Moon Hall, either meditating, dual cultivating with Xiao Moxian, or practicing his divine runic arts.

Slowly, a dozen some days passed. In the blink of an eye, Lin Ming had stayed in Full Moon Hall for half a month.

In the early morning, a maid slammed the doors open to put down a basin of wash water. Her eyes narrowed as she looked at Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian. As she saw their lazy and fulfilled appearances in bed, her eyes flashed with contempt.

She didn't have to be a genius to know what the two of them had been doing last night.

The young maid also acknowledged that Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian could be considered a dragon and phoenix amongst humans, a match made by the heavens. But, they had freely eaten and slept here without any meaning or intention of leaving Full Moon Hall, and they had done so for half a month. Since it was her job to manage their daily needs she naturally wasn't feeling happy that she had to do these extra duties.

Moreover, she could see that her master didn't care too much about this young man and woman. Thus, she had faintly regarded Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian as simple freeloaders.

"I must say... sir, miss, how long do you plan on living here?"

This young maid was quite interesting. If she managed to be chosen to enter the Imperial Palace, she naturally wasn't ugly. Rather, with her teenage appearance, she seemed quite pure and naïve.

Lin Ming faintly smiled. He easily knew what this young maid was thinking. "What, are you in such a hurry to kick us out?"

After having her thoughts revealed, the young maid wasn't embarrassed. She said, "This is the harem; men usually cannot enter here. Although Imperial Concubine Moon has a special status that gives her the privilege to bid you enter and leave, you cannot stay here forever. Aren't these the common rules of a palace?"

"That makes some sense." Lin Ming smiled and nodded, still having no intention of leaving. His actions seemed mildly antagonistic.

The young maid's lips twitched and she unhappily threw a white towel onto the edge of the water basin, causing a large splash.

Just as she was about to stomp off in a huff, a sharp and long voice echoed through the air, "By the decree of the Empress, Imperial Concubine Moon must come out to meet her!"

This eunuch's voice had a great penetrative power, one that reached into every inch of Full Moon Hall. As the young maid heard this, her body shook and she nearly fell to the floor.

Chapter 1578 – Summons of the Empress

The eunuch's sharp and grating voice reverberated through all of Full Moon Hall. The young maid propped herself up against the carved wooden door. She gathered her wits, her hand held against her chest even as her complexion was left pale and stunned.

She had been shocked by that shout because she was far too young and her cultivation was far too weak. As for that eunuch's voice, it was extremely vigorous. Although there wasn't any true essence in his voice it was still filled with energy, making the eardrums shake.

And, another reason was that to a palace maid without any decent cultivation, the title of Empress was far too terrifying!

The Empress was the mother of the nation and the head of the harem. All palace maids, all eunuchs, all imperial concubines, everyone had to obey the summons of the Empress. Within the harem, the Empress had absolute power!

Now, a powerful chief eunuch had suddenly shouted out the decree of the Empress. This inevitably placed a great deal of pressure on a young maid!

“The summons of the Empress?”

Lin Ming rubbed his chin, some thoughts flashing through his mind. Now that the Marvel Blue Emperor was in closed door seclusion, if the Empress had issued a decree towards Imperial Concubine Moon then it was impossible that they would be chatting about old times. There was definitely some play involved concerning political and material benefits.

And according to what Lin Ming knew, Prince Marvel Shen was the son of the Empress!

Prince Marvel Shen had a prominent background. Although his talent was a great deal worse than Grandprince Marvel Snow's, the

influence and power he grasped in his hands was several times greater than Marvel Snow's!

And Blood Moon was also known as Imperial Concubine Moon. She was the offering that Grandprince Marvel Snow had given to the Marvel Blue Emperor.

With a little bit of thinking, one could imagine just what sort of cooperative relationship they had.

Blood Moon was an imperial concubine in name only. In truth, she was actually a helper that Marvel Snow had brought in!

And the price that Marvel Snow paid was likely a promise to help Blood Moon stabilize her position in Heaven's Net once he succeeded the position of emperor!

This was a mutually beneficial interaction, a win-win situation for the both of them. Of course, the basis of this was that Blood Moon was able to help Marvel Snow succeed the throne. Otherwise, if she failed, not only would she obtain no advantages but she might be dragged in without any ability to defend herself!

All of these thoughts raced through Lin Ming's mind. He could feel that the Empress' summons this time had no good intentions behind them!

The Empress would certainly support her son Marvel Shen, and as for Blood Moon, she supported Marvel Snow. Between Empress and imperial concubine, there was bound to be a fierce battle!

And at this time, Blood Moon had already exited to receive the decree.

This was a written decree with the seal of the Empress as well as the mark of the imperial jade seal; it wasn't a verbal decree only.

Generally speaking, if the Empress wanted to summon someone she would only need to pass on a message. She normally wouldn't need to do something as serious as sending out a written decree.

“Imperial Concubine Moon. In these past days, the Empress has been managing national affairs and now she wishes to clear out the harem. In these last months the Emperor has been unable to pay attention to the affairs of the state and in his absence, there have been many princes and imperial concubines that have been forming their own influences within the imperial palace, even gathering guests here and creating all sorts of trouble and commotion. Now, the Empress has decreed a cleansing. Imperial Concubine Moon, I hope that you do not mind if I search through Full Moon Hall!”

In front of Imperial Concubine Moon, a yellow-robed eunuch cunningly smiled. His voice was sharp and daggers were hidden in his smile. Although his face was old and covered with wrinkles his eyes were still as sharp as an eagle’s, as if he could see through people to their bones.

This was a peak Holy Lord eunuch. Those eunuchs that wore yellow robes were all leaders amongst the eunuchs. For the Empress to send a chief eunuch to pass on a decree, it could be said that she was taking this matter extremely seriously. Moreover, there was even another team of eunuch bodyguards behind him!

These eunuch bodyguards all had a Divine Lord realm cultivation. The leader amongst these eunuchs even had an early Holy Lord realm cultivation.

Even though Marvel Blue Nation was a peak Holy Land influence, it was still impossible for them to have Divine Lords everywhere. A true palace bodyguard normally had a late Divine Transformation realm cultivation. Now that a team of Divine Lords had been sent here, it was clear that they had sent their most outstanding individuals!

This uproar and threatening momentum was definitely not a good sign.

Blood Moon frowned. According to palace rules, the Empress was

in charge of the harem and she truly did have the authority to issue such a decree. Moreover, the Empress was now temporarily managing national affairs so her authority was even greater.

If she were to disobey then that would be violating the decree. There would be charges pushed against her, giving the Empress a chance to punish her!

Blood Moon was in an extremely bad situation to begin with. If she stirred up more trouble then it would only be adding fuel to the fire.

She quickly said with a true essence sound transmission, “Lin Ming, you and your companion must quickly leave through the transmission array here. I will have Eunuch Liang meet you on the outside! Although I have a token that allows you to enter the palace, the Empress is currently managing affairs of the state, thus if you were to fall into her hands she would be able to call down charges on you. If that were to happen then you would be dragged into this mess!”

Blood Moon’s words were quick and succinct; everything was heard by Lin Ming.

These words left Lin Ming startled. He suddenly developed a much more favorable impression of Blood Moon.

In Blood Moon’s opinion, Lin Ming must have some amazing master standing behind him. In ordinary times, it would be impossible for her to request a favor from Lin Ming’s master.

But if Lin Ming were to fall into danger, that would be a completely different situation!

If the Empress rashly did something to Lin Ming, harming him or even killing him, then it would be possible that Lin Ming’s master would take revenge for him. The anger of an Emphyrean was no trifling matter. It was possible that the entire Marvel Blue Nation would be destroyed for this reason alone!

But Blood Moon did not use this to her advantage. Instead, she bid Lin Ming escape as soon as he could. The Imperial Palace had numerous masters standing guard here. If a junior like Lin Ming was wrapped up in the palace disputes then there really was a chance he would die!

Although Blood Moon didn't attach much importance to Lin Ming and had even placed him in a side room without seeing him for half a month, she had never intended to harm him nor did she plan to use his safety as a chip to gain more advantages for herself.

This caused Lin Ming to feel a bit more trusting of Blood Moon. Although Blood Moon came from an assassin organization she still had her own moral code, one that she wouldn't break. This sort of person was worth knowing.

However, although Blood Moon had told Lin Ming to leave, the old eunuch that issued the decree wouldn't stand by and let this happen. In fact, before the old eunuch even stepped into Full Moon Hall, he had already carefully probed every master inside!

Lin Ming only had a Divine Lord realm cultivation but his foundation was far more solid than an ordinary Divine Lord powerhouse's. The position he stood at was naturally vibrant and out of the ordinary.

And besides Lin Ming, there was no other top male master in Full Moon Hall. Eunuch Liang was not in Full Moon Hall at the moment, and even if he were the old eunuch would still have recognized and ignored him. Because of this Lin Ming had become the focus of his attention!

The old eunuch didn't wait for Imperial Concubine Moon to respond. He turned towards the side building where Lin Ming was and hurtled forwards!

Peng!

The wooden doors of the building were smashed apart!

The old eunuch rushed in like a wild bull!

“Ahh!”

The young maid that had been delivering washing water suddenly screamed. The powerful flux of energy that came with the old eunuch rushing over here suddenly surged towards the young maid!

The young maid only had a Pulse Condensation realm cultivation. If she were struck by this flow of energy then if she were lucky only all of her organs would shatter. If she wasn't lucky then her entire body would explode to pieces and she would die a miserable death where she stood!

In the Imperial Palace, the life of a palace maid or eunuch was far too cheap. If they were struck to death they would simply be buried somewhere without even a tombstone to mark their grave.

Let alone these low level palace maids and eunuchs, even princes without status or talent were the same. After all, the Emperor had far too many descendants and the Imperial Palace had a limit to the number of people that it could hold. Those that lacked talent would be banished from the Imperial Palace, and as for whether they lived or died in the future, no one cared.

“Just what are you doing!?”

Xiao Moxian shouted out loud. Her apricot-round eyes widened and she waved her hand, her fast reflexes sending out a current of true essence that wrapped around the young maid and pulled her over!

Peng!

Where the young maid had been originally standing, all of the surrounding furniture was shattered by the terrifying currents of energy. Even the tiles began to crack apart like a spider web.

These floor tiles had been specially made. Although they weren't constructed from something as precious as timeless god stone, they

still used materials as hard as divine steel. Now that these tiles were struck by the old eunuch they almost exploded to pieces. It could only be said that this old eunuch was deliberately setting his momentum up so that he could suppress Lin Ming with lightning speed!

Without the orders of the Empress, there was no way that a mere peak Holy Lord chief eunuch would dare to be so rampant in Full Moon Hall!

For the old eunuch to rush in and then stop, this was to vividly display the Empress' attitude towards Imperial Concubine Moon!

“Hehe, so there really are accomplices and one of them is even a man!”

The old eunuch looked at Lin Ming and then turned towards Imperial Concubine Moon, a sly and thoughtful smile stretching across his face! It was like he had caught Lin Ming and Imperial Concubine Moon in bed together!

Imperial Concubine Moon's face darkened, a thick surge of killing intent flashing in her eyes. She never thought that this old eunuch would use such a method to accuse her of crimes. This was simply a grand humiliation to herself!

“You stupid old turtle, it seems you don't want to live!”

Xiao Moxian was already enraged. She still had the young maid held to her chest. The young maid had been frightened pale. Just now she had walked up to death's door. If it weren't for Xiao Moxian pulling her back then her blood would have splashed everywhere and she likely wouldn't even have had a complete corpse!

The young maid looked towards Xiao Moxian with gratitude and awe. She felt grateful that Xiao Moxian had rescued her, and she was awed that Xiao Moxian would call this chief eunuch an old turtle to his face!

These chief eunuchs had an extremely high status and they could execute young maids and young eunuchs as they pleased! To a low level maid like herself, these chief eunuchs were existences that they felt absolute fear towards. Moreover, this chief eunuch had a peak Holy Lord cultivation!

But Xiao Moxian had still called him a turtle. And for a eunuch, they especially hated and loathed being called a turtle!

The young maid already thought that these words were braver than the heavens. But even so, she never imagined that Xiao Moxian's next words would be even more malicious!

Without caring for how angry this chief eunuch was, Xiao Moxian sneered and said, "How ridiculously strange. When farm beasts like donkeys and horses are wild, they become much more docile after they are castrated. It becomes much more enjoyable to ride them and they listen to orders obediently. But you, after you had your manhood severed your temperament became so much worse instead. Does this mean that you are inferior to even donkeys and horses?"

Xiao Moxian's words were toxic to the extreme!

After the young maid heard this she nearly fell on the floor. This was the same as challenging the chief eunuch's bottom line!

And indeed, after the chief eunuch heard Xiao Moxian's words, thick killing intent flashed in his eyes!

Chapter 1579 – All Encompassing Net

“Jejejejejeje!”

The yellow-robed eunuch wildly cackled. To a eunuch, their most taboo subject was their castration. Even for those court eunuchs that severed their manhood to practice martial arts, this was still no exception!

Now, Xiao Moxian had specifically poked at this wound so how could he not become enraged? In his heart, this old eunuch had already passed down a death penalty to Xiao Moxian and Lin Ming.

“I have no idea how long it’s been since someone has dared speak to me like this! Good! Good! Very good! Do you know what the most exquisite torture methods in the imperial palace are? I can allow you to experience them all!”

The yellow-robed eunuch reached out for Xiao Moxian, but at this time, a cold cough resounded in the world. “What insolence! Are you trying to rebel!?”

This voice carried with it a powerful penetrative power. All of the nearby vases and furniture was left shattered by this voice!

Imperial Concubine Moon held a four foot long treasure sword, her face covered by her veil. She raised her sword. With her slender figure combined with this sword, she gave off a fierce and swift feeling.

“You stupid minion, who gave you the courage to be so rampant in my Full Moon Hall!”

As Imperial Concubine Moon spoke she pointed her swords towards the yellow-robed eunuch’s throat. But, this yellow-robed eunuch acted as if he didn’t see this sword at all. He sneered and said with his grating voice, “Imperial Concubine Moon, my actions are all under imperial decree. In order to prevent the escape of the suspects my methods were a bit extreme. I apologize if there was

any disrespect.”

The old eunuch’s words were respectful but his tone and posture were clearly filled with arrogance. He didn’t put Imperial Concubine Moon in his eyes at all.

The eunuch was well aware of Imperial Concubine Moon’s status. From the start she was not a true imperial concubine. Let alone sleeping with the Marvel Blue Emperor, they had probably never met before.

This Imperial Concubine Moon was someone that Grandprince Marvel Snow, otherwise known to him as Lord Snow, had brought into the harem as reinforcement. In other words, she was Lord Snow’s subordinate.

Eunuch Sun had no respect towards this sort of fake imperial concubine. Moreover, he knew that the Empress had decided to take action against Lord Snow, and cutting off his wings was her first mission!

The Empress would inevitably tear down Imperial Concubine Moon!

At this time tomorrow, it was hard to tell whether Imperial Concubine Moon would be dead or alive!

“Imperial Concubine Moon, the Empress has summoned your presence. At the same time, she has given me the discretion to apprehend your henchmen however I please. This man and woman are clearly not part of the Imperial Palace. As for the reason for them being here, I cannot comment on it. Everything will be decided by the Empress!”

Eunuch Sun’s words were forceful and menacing. Imperial Concubine Moon’s eyes turned cold, “Are you threatening me?”

“How would this servant dare to such a thing? However, if Imperial Concubine Moon resists the decree then I can only send a sound transmission command to the chief imperial guard of the

Imperial Palace, and have the imperial guard assist Imperial Concubine Moon in a trip to see the Empress!”

As Eunuch Sun spoke, the eunuch bodyguards behind him moved forwards, encircling Imperial Concubine Moon, Lin Ming, and Xiao Moxian within.

These eunuch bodyguards all traced their spatial rings, ready to fight at any moment!

Although these eunuch bodyguards didn't have a high cultivation, they were skilled in various battle arrays. Once they formed a battle array, their combat strength would increase. With the peak Holy Lord Eunuch Sun added in, this caused Blood Moon's eyebrows to wrinkle. If she wasn't injured then she wouldn't fear these people at all, but now, if she were to fight, then she would quickly lose control of the situation.

And since she was within the palace, if she tried to resist the imperial decree then she would be in the wrong no matter how it was said. It would be impossible for her to rid herself of a charge of rebelling.

Not just that, but Eunuch Liang wasn't in Full Moon Hall but at Lord Snow's palace. This current situation was extremely bad.

And as Blood Moon was finding it hard to back down, Lin Ming stepped forwards and said, “Since this is the summons of the Empress, we might as well take the trip over. It would be nice to meet the mother of the Marvel Blue Nation.”

Lin Ming's voice was slightly cold. Eunuch Sun chuckled. Was this boy an idiot? Just what use was there for Lord Snow or Imperial Concubine Moon to raise such a person? In this situation, this young man would actually speak such foolish words. Meet the Empress? What would the Empress want to meet him for?

In his imperial palace, the words of the Empress were the will of heaven; no one could defy them!

After listening to Lin Ming, Blood Moon was at a loss for what to do. She knew that it would be difficult for today's matters to not end in death, but she never imagined that Lin Ming would also become involved.

"I've even dragged you into this..." Blood Moon said with a sound transmission, her voice a bit helpless. "If the Empress has summoned us then I'm afraid she's going to harm us. She will casually come up with some charges to get rid of us. Now that we're in the imperial palace our situation is extremely bad. I've already contacted Eunuch Liang, but just the help of a chief eunuch like Eunuch Liang will not be able to help us too much. If you wish to guarantee your own safety then you'll need to find some way to contact your master..."

In Blood Moon's opinion, Lin Ming's master should have left him some life-saving card. Hopefully, Lin Ming would be able to rely on this to safely retreat.

But, she didn't think that Lin Ming would only shake his head and say, "When I left my master, it was to adventure alone. It is no longer possible for me to rely on his help. I must do everything by myself."

Lin Ming's words left Blood Moon's heart sinking with disappointment. If Lin Ming didn't have the backing of his master then where did his bravado come from?

She wanted to give Lin Ming a few words of warning but she had no idea what to say. At this time, nothing she said would be useful.

Like this, the team of eunuch bodyguards sandwiched Lin Ming, Imperial Concubine Moon, Xiao Moxian, and everyone else between them, leading them towards the central palace.

Even the young maid that delivered water, Imperial Concubine Moon's maids, and the young eunuchs had been led away.

Marvel Blue Imperial Palace was extremely large and the group

was walking at the same pace that mortals would walk at. Even though their destination was only 10 or so miles away, it still took them two to three quarter hours!

Along the way they passed through many corridors and palaces. Everything was quiet around them. Occasionally, squads of eunuchs patrolled around, filling the air with a chilling atmosphere!

Seeing this imperial palace that had absolutely no lively or busy atmosphere at all, Lin Ming's thoughts stirred. It seemed that the Empress really was working to clean out the harem. She was taking advantage of the Marvel Blue Emperor's closed door seclusion to take all authority in her hands and eliminate her enemies!

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The palace that the Empress stayed in was called Arid Peace Palace and was also known as the Empress's Palace. In the entire harem, besides the Soul Nourishing Temple that the Marvel Blue Emperor would stay at, Arid Peace Palace was the grandest construction.

Arid Peace Palace was nine levels high and was built from precious seven-feathered divine stone. The pillars of the palace were crafted from blue snow gold and even the tiles were specially processed, each one supported by divine runic symbols. When these floor tiles joined together, they formed an array formation. As one walked atop these tiles, they could feel their blood vitality restlessly moving as it was stirred up by the array formation.

The current Arid Peace Palace could be called heavily guarded! A massive number of eunuch bodyguards were set up in full combat formations. This type of feeling was as if an all-encompassing net had been laid down, just waiting for Imperial Concubine Moon to enter!

“Lower the palanquin!”

Eunuch Sun loudly announced. The eunuch bodyguards lowered Imperial Concubine Moon's palanquin. Imperial Concubine Moon parted the silk screen and stepped out. As she looked at the situation around Arid Peace Palace, she sneered.

She gently smoothed her veil down and accompanied Eunuch Sun into Arid Peace Palace.

The main hall of Arid Peace Palace had nine doors, each door surrounded on both sides by thick columns carved with images of phoenixes. There were a total of ten pillars, each of them looking grand. And in the center of the hall was a regal woman. She wore a golden red phoenix gown, each strand of silk spun from blue snow gold. It was resistant to water and fire, and even sabers and swords would find it difficult to slash through. It was a priceless garment.

Without a doubt, this woman was the Empress of the Marvel Blue Nation!

Lin Ming looked at this woman. This Empress had the appearance of a 30 year old. When Lin Ming had left the imperial palace he had also inquired into some information about the Empress.

Empress Naye had been received into the palace 100,000 years ago. At that time, she had been the proudest daughter of heaven within the Marvel Blue Nation. Her talent was outstanding and she had a variation bloodline. Moreover, her appearance was fantastic too.

Before that, Marvel Blue Nation had held a martial meeting involving all heroic young elites at the Divine Sea realm. In the end, Naye had been the one to emerge as champion. She had earned the attention and praise of the Marvel Blue Emperor and had entered the imperial palace afterwards. Along the way, she gained more and more favor, her rank increasing until she was finally titled as the Empress.

This grace was due to the advantages that the Marvel Blue

Emperor had gained after taking Naye's primordial yin. Moreover, dual cultivating with Naye was helpful to his own cultivation.

Now that 100,000 years had passed, Naye still dual cultivated with the Marvel Blue Emperor. However, she still wasn't able to break through the World King realm and remained stranded as a half-step World King.

This was already an extremely commendable achievement. The World King realm was simply far too difficult to reach. Even though Marvel Blue Nation was considered a Great World King Holy Land, they only had three or four World Kings within their lands.

This number of World Kings was already extremely good. In the past, within the Divine Realm, there were some Great World King Holy Lands like the True Martial Holy Lands who only had a single World King leading their sect. 50,000 years ago, the Verdant Feather Holy Lands had also been a Great World King Holy Land but their Holy Land only had two World Kings, one of them Tian Mingzi and the other one the old Verdant Feather World King. If they had more World Kings then the Verdant Feather Holy Lands wouldn't have suffered such a miserable fate after Tian Mingzi's betrayal so many years ago.

Imperial Concubine Moon was well aware of the World Kings in the Marvel Blue nation. Besides the old Emperor who was a Great World King, there were three other World Kings.

The first was the Imperial Scholar. He was not only a World King but also a sixth-grade divine runic master. Within the Marvel Blue Nation he was a highly respected and noble character!

The second was the Grand Marshal of the Marvel Blue Nation, the commander of the military forces. He had been bestowed the title of grand duke and was highly beloved by the people.

The third was Eunuch Wei, the highest chief court eunuch of the entire imperial palace and also the most trusted subordinate of the

Marvel Blue Emperor. He was someone that had cultivated the Sunflower Melody to the eighth level! Although he was a court eunuch, the truth was that he had a status equal to the Imperial Scholar.

Of these three people, the Imperial Scholar and Grand Marshal were unable to interfere in the struggle for the throne due to the laws and customs of the nation. As for Chief Eunuch Wei, he was only loyal to the Marvel Blue Emperor and also maintained neutrality in the struggle for succession. Even though Lord Snow and Lord Shen had done everything in their power to try to win over Eunuch Wei, even delivering to him all sorts of heavenly materials, Eunuch Wei had refused all offers and had returned all gifts.

Imperial Concubine Moon suspected that all of this was arranged by the old Emperor. He wanted the three World Kings of the Marvel Blue Nation to all remain neutral in the struggle for succession and finally dedicate their lives to the winner.

The advantage of this was that the scale of the struggle would be reduced to a minimum. These three World Kings were the cornerstones of the Marvel Blue Nation. As long as they weren't involved in the struggle then the foundation of the Marvel Blue Nation wouldn't be affected.

Chapter 1580 – Swords Drawn, Bows Bent

“If you will, Imperial Concubine Moon!” Eunuch Sun sinisterly said. However, Imperial Concubine Moon coldly sneered, not immediately stepping forwards. Instead, she turned towards the side, looking in the distance. After several breaths of time, there was the sound of rustling cloth as an eagle-eyed yellow-robed old man stepped forwards on the wind. Although he didn’t seem too fast, he arrived beside Imperial Concubine Moon in the blink of an eye.

This eagle-eyed old man was one of Lord Snow’s trusted subordinates as well as Blood Moon’s good friend – Eunuch Liang!

The entire Marvel Blue Imperial Palace had a total of five chief court eunuchs. Of these five, the only true grand chief eunuch was Eunuch Wei; the other four were vice chiefs. Eunuch Liang was one of them and he supported Lord Snow, standing opposite to the Empress’s ally, Eunuch Sun.

These two people had similar cultivations, both of them at the peak Holy Lord realm!

Moreover, because they were eunuchs that cultivated the Sunflower Melody and locked in their own essence energy, their strength and endurance far surpassed that of an ordinary person. If they were to fight then they could last much longer than a martial artist on the same level.

“Imperial Concubine Moon, this old servant has come late. I am sorry for frightening you.”

Eunuch Liang was originally loyal to Lord Snow and Blood Moon was also someone he had recommended to Lord Snow. With these relations between them, he naturally wouldn’t idly stand by as the Empress decided to harm her.

And as an accompanying eunuch that was part of Imperial

Concubine Moon's retinue, he naturally had a valid reason to join Imperial Concubine Moon to enter Arid Peace Palace.

"Eunuch Liang, it must have been hard for you."

Imperial Concubine Moon smirked. With Eunuch Liang here she had even more chips to play with. Even if the Empress wanted to move against her, it wouldn't be so easy.

Although she was wounded and couldn't display her full strength, if Eunuch Liang was added on then even if she had to face the peak Holy Lord Eunuch Sun, half-step World King Empress, as well as the many guard eunuchs and their array formations in Arid Peace Palace, she still wouldn't be at a disadvantage.

She had the capital to struggle for victory!

"So it was Eunuch Liang. It's been a while since we've seen each other and it seems that your Shadeless Steps have risen to another level!" Eunuch Sun said, his smile not reaching his eyes.

"Haha, the feeling is mutual. Eunuch Sun, you seem as if you'll step into the half-step World King realm soon. I fear that in several more years you'll catch up to Eunuch Wei!"

Eunuch Liang and Eunuch Sun were on opposite sides to begin with. Now that they encountered each other here, they naturally stood in sharp contention to each other!

Eunuch Sun coldly snorted. "Great Chief Wei has already cultivated the Sunflower Melody to the eighth level. How could I possibly surpass him!"

Eunuch Sun no longer bantered with Eunuch Liang. He turned to Blood Moon and said, "Imperial Concubine Moon, please enter the palace. Do not have the Empress wait for such a long time!"

"How annoying! Whatever I do, I don't need a minion like you to order me around!"

Blood Moon's voice was cold. From the start until now, she had

referred to Eunuch Sun as a lackey. But in truth, as a peak Holy Lord powerhouse, Eunuch Sun had significant status in the palace. There were many high level characters that treated him with due respect. For Blood Moon to call him a minion really grated on his ears!

“Who were you saying is annoying?”

At this time, a calm and dignified voice sounded out. This voice had a strange piercing power, as if it could reach into one’s mind.

This was the voice of the Empress!

“I have summoned your presence and yet you linger at the entrance without entering. What a great air of importance you have!”

The Empress’ voice was forceful and imperious. Blood Moon remained calm. She flung her sleeves and walked into the grand hall with her back straight and her head high, looking directly at Empress Naye. She lightly bowed in accordance with palace etiquette and said, “For what matter is the Empress summoning me?”

Blood Moon’s voice contained a hidden sense of pride. Since the Empress created such a commotion and even summoned her here it was obvious what she wanted; she wanted to deal with Blood Moon.

But, Blood Moon didn’t seem as if she was defeated at all. She remained tall and lofty, an unbending blade of grass in the storm, a chrysanthemum that withstood the frost. This sort of feeling was one that the Empress hated!

The Empress wanted Imperial Concubine Moon to bow in awe and fear, not standing in sharp opposition like she was now!

The Empress’ smoky eyes frowned. She gently lifted her gown and let it slowly fall. Beside her, 10 eunuch guards readied a battle array!

These 10 eunuch guards were all Holy Lord powerhouses. The 10 of them stood in particularly chosen positions to form a 10 man battle array. And this battle array locked onto Blood Moon. The 10 court eunuchs had gathered their essence energy, their breath long and stable. They were like 10 leopards, primed and ready to leap, filled with danger.

And around the eunuchs were eight old maids. These old maids had already stayed in the imperial palace for at least 10,000 years. Although they all had wrinkles on their faces, their inner worlds were filled with boundless amounts of energy; it was clear they were all masters.

Including the eunuch guards and old maids, there were a total of 18 people. Beneath the feet of these 18 people were shimmering runes.

Lin Ming had studied all sorts of dao patterns. With a single glance, he could see that these lines were carved by a divine runic master. They could strengthen the martial artists that stood on them!

With 18 people standing as one, although their cultivation was only at the Holy Lord realm, if they joined together they might be able to contend with a World King!

Besides these 18 people there was also the half-step World King Empress as well as Eunuch Sun. This lineup of powerhouses within Arid Peace Palace could be called a formidable force!

At this time, Eunuch Sun sent a sound transmission to Empress Naye. After she heard it she sneered and looked towards Lin Ming, shouting at him, “You minion, who gave you the courage to live in Full Moon Hall!”

Lin Ming was startled. He didn’t think that the fire would burn so quickly that it reached him.

“Minion?” Lin Ming scoffed. For so many years, no one had ever

called him a minion. Not even his enemies had done so!

“You old hag, just what gave you the ability to act so superior? Who do you think you are? If I live in Full Moon Hall, what does that have to do with a granny like you?”

Lin Ming simply didn't care about Naye. Who cared if she was an Empress? To Lin Ming, that title was nothing at all!

“Insolence!” The Empress shouted out, enraged. Her tone became increasingly grim. “What a wonderful minion, to dare speak against me! In so many years, no one has dared to speak to me like that! Full Moon Hall is a special quarter for concubines in the harem. Those men that can enter are only eunuchs! And yet a minion like you actually dared to ask me why you can't live in Full Moon Hall? If that's the case then someone go up and inspect that minion to see if he's been cleanly castrated or not! If he hasn't been cleanly castrated then have the chief doctor cut it off once more!”

In the harem, men were not able enter to begin with. If there was a man quietly and secretly living in the quarters of an imperial concubine, then that was a capital crime deserving of death by 10,000 cuts.

But, concerning Marvel Blue Imperial Palace, it was a martial artist's palace and thus the rules weren't so strict to begin with. When this was added with the fact that Imperial Concubine Moon wasn't a true imperial concubine anyway and she also had Lord Snow's token, she was well within her rights to bring Lin Ming into Full Moon Hall without violating any rules. But now, the Empress had grabbed this point. Since she was cleaning up the harem, she would first start with Imperial Concubine Moon. This was what they meant by condemning someone without a care for the pretext!

With an order from the Empress, the several Holy Lord eunuchs beside her moved forwards to capture Lin Ming.

Lin Ming remained expressionless, as if he hadn't heard anything

at all. However, his right hand was already tracing his spatial ring.

“Who dares to move!”

Blood Moon shouted out loud and stood in front of Lin Ming. She glared at Naye, coldly saying, “Naye, the reason for everything you’ve done is to bring me here and find an excuse to punish me, so why must you attack a bystander! Naye, I heard that 100,000 years ago when you were at the Divine Sea realm, you were a champion of the Marvel Blue Nation’s martial meeting of outstanding young elites. That is the reason why the eyes of the Marvel Blue Emperor landed on you and the reason he brought you into the palace. Now, I would like to experience just how great the strength of this martial meeting champion is!”

As Blood Moon spoke she had already taken out her four foot long sword from her spatial ring!

The sword blade was cold, the sword light blinding!

“Imperial Concubine Moon, are you planning to rebel!?” Before Naye spoke, Eunuch Sun had already stood in front of the Empress. At some time, he had placed a pair of divine iron gloves on his hands. The gloves were fierce and sharp, the 10 fingers ending in daggers.

Eunuch Sun’s weapons were a pair of iron gloves.

As Eunuch Sun moved, Eunuch Liang also stepped forwards in front of Blood Moon. A simmering killing intent rolled off his body. His weapon of choice was also a pair of iron gloves. It seemed that this type of weapon was especially suited to the Sunflower Melody.

At this time, the air was thick with tension, all swords drawn – a battle could break out at any moment!

And at this time, Naye suddenly smiled. “Imperial Concubine Moon, not only did you harbor a man in Full Moon Hall but you even want to attack me? Good! Very good! I’ve long suspected that

there was some issue with you. After entering the palace you have always kept your appearance covered and isolated from all probing senses. I've long wanted to remove a dangerous character like you. I will tear down your veil and see just who you are! How could I tolerate such an unknown and disastrous character like you within the sacred grounds of my palace!"

Naye stood up as she spoke. Her entire body emitted an aggressive momentum!

Naye had entered the palace 100,000 years ago, and after 10,000 years of imperial struggles and plotting, she had used all sorts of methods to win the favor of the Marvel Blue Emperor and become Empress. Now, she had ruled over the harem for 90,000 years and had long ago formed a great and majestic dignity!

The harem of an imperial palace was originally a land of strife and intrigue. There were countless imperial concubines that wished to capture the favor of the Marvel Blue Emperor. As long as one could obtain his favor, then not only did it mean authority and status but far richer resources. Naye was able to stand out amongst this treacherous harem and climb to the highest position. She didn't depend on just her outstanding talent, stunning looks, and a physique that was suitable for dual cultivating, but she also relied on her ruthless and savage methods!

Now that she was in charge of national affairs, she would use this moment as her chance to exterminate all her enemies and guarantee that her son could smoothly ascend to the throne!

In this sort of situation, how could she let go of Imperial Concubine Moon who supported Lord Snow?

"Naye, what wonderful methods you have. Between you and me, we already understand each other. I have already been in the palace for half a year and yet I have never fought. Then, let my first battle be in Arid Peace Palace!"

Blood Moon suddenly slashed out with her sword – take the

initiative, take the advantage!

As her sword slashed out her skirt floated around her and her black hair danced in the wind. Blood Moon's sword strike didn't seem as if she were aiming at an enemy but was as if she were dancing.

The first time Lin Ming saw Blood Moon he had seen her dancing. It seemed as if she was someone who loved to dance, and now in the heat of battle, her actions were like dancing shadows, beautiful and dangerous!

Chapter 1581 – Blood Moon’s Crisis

“Protect the Empress!”

The moment that Blood Moon moved, 18 eunuchs and old maids had already been prepared. They stood atop an array formation, and the Empress and Blood Moon stood at the heart of it! Now that Blood Moon launched such a sudden attack, the runes beneath the 18 eunuchs and maids shimmered as they gathered their strength, forming a mighty raging river that rushed towards Blood Moon.

The floor tiles exploded to pieces as energy raced forwards like a tide, filled with killing intent!

Facing the onslaught of these 18 people, Blood Moon coldly sneered. “An 18 Clear King Array. Such a dignified Arid Peace Palace, as the ruler of the harem you can only display an array formation of this level?”

Arid Peace Palace’s 18 Clear King Array had to be laid down by array masters and divine runic masters. However, within the entire inner Asura Road, although array masters were somewhat easy to find, divine runic masters were not; they were exorbitantly expensive characters. If one wanted to ask one of them to help then they would have to pay a steep price. Moreover, there also had to be a certain friendship or they wouldn’t bother to begin with.

If it was the Marvel Blue Emperor then he could certainly request a peak sixth grade divine runic master to add divine runic symbols to this array formation. In fact, in Marvel Blue Imperial Palace’s Golden Imperial Throne as well as Heaven and Earth Hall, there was a peak sixth grade divine runic array. Once this array formation began, the effects would be extraordinary!

But in the harem, Arid Peace Palace was only the living quarters of a half-step World King Empress. For her, it was impossible to use such a grand array. This so-called 18 Clear King Array could

barely be considered to be at the sixth grade, or in other words a quasi-sixth grade array formation.

A sixth grade divine runic array was far more expensive than a sixth grade divine runic symbol because an array formation required dozens of divine runic symbols of the same level to support it. For Arid Peace Palace to be able to lay down a quasi-sixth grade array formation was already extremely luxurious for a half-step World King Empress.

The 18 early Holy Lord eunuchs and old maids stood above 18 Clear King Array. With it, the might of their joint attack increased by dozens of times and one could fight a World King – on the premise that this 18 Clear King Array wasn't broken!

But how could a true World King powerhouse stand there idly and let themselves be struck by these people?

In that instant, Blood Moon took out a shining gold talisman from her spatial ring. The design of a fierce ghost's head decorated the talisman; this was a sixth grade divine runic symbol!

This divine runic symbol had been drawn up by the Divine Runic Masters Guild's Old Su especially for Blood Moon. Old Su and Blood Moon had a very deep friendship, and the reason Lin Ming was able to come to Marvel Blue Nation was also because he had been introduced by Old Su.

Hu - !

As the divine runic symbol entered Blood Moon's hands it began to burn brilliantly, turning into hundreds of dao patterns that rained down. These dao patterns didn't attack the 18 eunuchs and maids, but attacked the array symbols beneath their feet!

This was a sixth grade array shattering symbol and that 18 Clear King Array was within the level of arrays that this symbol would break! As a high level member of Heaven's Net, she would naturally gather sufficient information before she took on a

mission. Before this, Lord Snow had paid a sufficient price to bribe enough eunuchs and maids into telling him that the great array formation within Arid Peace Palace was the 18 Clear King Array!

In response to this array, Blood Moon had asked for Old Su's help to draw up a specific array shattering symbol. Now, the time had come to use it!

Ca!

A tooth-aching sound echoed out accompanied by a flash of golden light, blinding everyone in the hall. In that moment, the runes beneath the 18 eunuchs and maids shattered, turning into violent flows of energy that caused a backlash against them. Their bodies shook and they were nearly injured!

This was the moment Blood Moon had been waiting for. Her body turned into a beam of light that shot forwards. Powerful true essence poured into her sword.

As her sword slashed out, a round and bright moon rose behind Blood Moon. The cold moonlight sprinkled down, covering the entire Arid Peace Palace. As for Blood Moon, she was illuminated by this moon in the background. Her slender body stretched out like she was a goddess riding the wind, filled with infinite charm and grace!

However, this charm and grace was actually fatal!

Just what sort of strength did Blood Moon possess? Although she was wounded she was still a World King powerhouse, someone that a Holy Lord could not contend with!

With a flash of moonlight, a cold and chilling night seemed to descend. Beneath the cover of this endless night, everyone felt inexplicably oppressed. The bright moon in the skies attracted the eyes of everyone!

“This is bad!”

Empress Naye's complexion changed. True essence erupted from

her body as she rapidly retreated. She was well aware that in that moment she had been covered by Blood Moon's domain!

This long night and bright moonlight, that was Blood Moon's domain – The Endlessly Long Night!

As Naye drew back, two eunuchs and a maid bore the brunt of Blood Moon's attack. Blood Moon's attack struck them, decapitating them and sending their heads rolling to the floor!

Like this, the 18 Clear King Array was broken by Blood Moon!

As blood splashed out, the moonlight seemed to be dyed red. The bright moon in the skies began to take on a faintly reddish hue!

This was the sign of Blood Moon. Within her domain, every time she killed a person the moon would drink their blood, becoming increasingly red. Once she killed innumerable people, this bright moon would turn into a dark red blood moon. And at that time, the power of the Endlessly Long Night would reach its peak!

After the success of her first strike, Blood Moon didn't stop there. Her sword changed direction as she cut towards another group of eunuchs and maids!

She wanted to quickly kill off these early Holy Lord powerhouses and use their blood to water the Endlessly Long Night!

Blood Moon was originally a high level member of an assassin organization. Even within Arid Peace Palace, she killed without mercy! She was well aware that in this situation, it was no longer a question of whether she was rebelling or not. Ever since ancient times, when the changing of a dynasty was coming, coups and rivers of blood were common, whether it was in the mortal world or the world of martial artists!

As long as one won, then one could still be king no matter how many people they killed. But if one lost, that would be a capital crime of rebelling against the nation!

The winner was king and the losers were villains; this was the

simplest truth.

At this time, the Empress was taking advantage of the fact that the Emperor was in closed door seclusion to show her hand. With force, she wanted to subdue all others. How could Blood Moon sit around and wait for death?

But as Blood Moon attacked for a second time and was about to decapitate another eunuch, an alarm sounded out in her heart!

A killing intent was hidden within the atmosphere of chaos, like a viper hiding in the brush!

“Sneak attack!?”

Blood Moon was startled. At this time, there was actually a hidden ambusher that appeared from nowhere! Such hiding methods and assassination techniques left a strong sense of restlessness in her heart!

She no longer had time to think about who it could be; she rapidly drew backwards!

Chi!

With a light sound, the Endlessly Long Night domain was pierced through by a strange force. This power was incomparably ruthless and sinister, shooting straight towards Blood Moon!

“Be careful behind you!”

A voice suddenly rang out. This was Lin Ming’s warning!

Without thinking, Blood Moon slashed out behind her. With a loud cracking sound, she chopped apart a black flashing dagger!

Because the Endlessly Long Night domain had been broken, an immense amount of sharp and violent sword energy gushed out! Three coiling dragon pillars supported by array formations were sliced to pieces by this sword energy. The entire structure shook, nearly collapsing in on itself!

A battle between quasi World Kings could move mountains, fill

seas, and even destroy some smaller planets. With this violent battle occurring deep in the palace, no matter how solid the building was, once it lost the protection of a domain then it simply wouldn't be able to block the true essence currents rushing about!

“White Sky, is that you!?”

Blood Moon's voice was cold, her complexion gloomy and dark like the bottom of a lake. Although that sneak attack hadn't injured her, it had planted a parasitic domain seed within her domain.

This parasitic seed wasn't able to harm her. With just a little bit of effort she would be able to remove the seed, but this process required some time. In the meantime, this seed would erode her true essence, making it so that she couldn't activate her domain ability.

And at this time, a tall man in gray robes stepped out from behind a folding screen within Arid Peace Palace. This thin screen shouldn't have been able to isolate the sense of a martial artist. If Blood Moon wasn't able to discover this from the start, then this proved that this other person had an amazing concealing technique.

And the people that usually possessed this type of ability were assassins!

“Blood Moon, it's been a while since we've seen each other!” A man hoarsely said, immediately calling out Blood Moon's codename within Heaven's Net. He wore a white and black mask with two fierce blood red lines running down from the eyes, looking fierce.

He clearly knew who Blood Moon was.

“Someone from Heaven's Net?”

Lin Ming's eyes narrowed as he immediately realized this.

Chapter 1582 – Assassin White Sky

As Blood Moon saw the masked man appear, her complexion turned grim. He was the same as Blood Moon in that both of them covered up their cultivations with secret techniques, making it so that one couldn't see what level his cultivation boundary was at. In addition, his black and white mask was able to isolate out all senses so that no one could uncover anything about him at all.

This was a frequently used tactic of Heaven's Net.

"Who is that?" Lin Ming asked with a true essence sound transmission.

"One of the three leaders of Heaven's Net, White Sky, a World King powerhouse!"

Blood Moon replied, her eyes fixed on White Sky.

"World King..."

Lin Ming's eyebrows shot up. He wasn't surprised by White Sky's cultivation boundary at all. Heaven's Net was similar to the Marvel Blue Nation; both could be considered peak World King Holy Lands. And, the big boss of Heaven's Net was likely a Great World King whereas the other leaders were ordinary World Kings.

Blood Moon herself was in truth at the early World King boundary. Amongst World King powerhouses, she was on the weaker end of the spectrum. The White Sky in front of her was similar to her.

But at this time, Blood Moon's situation wasn't good to begin with. White Sky's appearance had suddenly brought about a massive crisis!

Facing White Sky, Blood Moon sneered and said, "I never thought you would chase me all the way here. In order to hunt me down you've involved yourself in the struggle for the Marvel Blue Nation's throne?"

Empress Naye suddenly laughed out loud, “Imperial Concubine Moon... or, perhaps it’s better if I call you Blood Moon! Did you think that only Lord Snow would be able to invite people from Heaven’s Net, but I could not? The ones I bring are even stronger than you!”

As Naye spoke, she sat back upon her empress throne. Her expression turned idle and bored once again, as if everything was in her control.

At the start she hadn’t known what Blood Moon’s true identity was; it was Heaven’s Net that had approached her on their own initiative. They wanted to join in on the struggle for the throne, and their goal in all of this was Blood Moon.

This was a naturally happy occurrence for both sides. Thus, all of that led to Empress Naye summoning Blood Moon today.

She had already made all of her preparations in order to place Blood Moon in a death trap.

White Sky looked at Blood Moon from beneath the eye holes in his mask. His voice was indifferent as he said, “Blood Moon, if you thought you could find protection in the Marvel Blue Imperial Palace, then you were wrong to indulge in such whimsical fancies. If you can involve yourself in the struggle for the throne, then so can we! I know that you’re aware of what I’ve come here for. Is the item that Big Boss left behind in your hands? As long as you hand it over, I will not kill you! You and I are from the same organization so I naturally have some sentiment towards my fellow comrades. I don’t even care about the matters of authority in Heaven’s Net because none of it concerns me at all. If you want to leave and take someone with you then I won’t stop you.”

White Sky didn’t conceal his goal at all, nor did he care about the presence of the Empress or the others. His voice was harsh, bringing with it a faint killing intent that was forceful and aggressive.

As Lin Ming heard this, his thoughts stirred. Something that the Big Boss had left behind?

He originally found it strange that there would be an internal power struggle within Heaven's Net. Lin Ming thought it was because they were competing for authority, but now it seemed that the original cause was some sort of treasure!

If this was a treasure that could cause a bloodbath among the high level figures of Heaven's Net, then this must be something extraordinary!

"What you want is not in my hands!"

Blood Moon had no intention of bargaining for her life. She pointed her sword straight at White Sky's throat.

Seeing this, White Sky chuckled, his laugh grating to the ears. "I thought you would give such a response, otherwise it wouldn't be you at all. But, look around you, do you still think you can win in this situation?"

As the gray-robed man spoke, he took out a short sword from his spatial ring. This sword was two feet long without a hand guard. Moreover, the hilt was extremely short, just two inches long, making it difficult for an adult male to hold.

The short sword was deep blue and the blade as thin as paper. Without a doubt, this short sword could display one's speed to the limit!

"Blood Moon, it seems that you are going to die here today. What a pity that your arrogance and pride have doomed you, it is truly regretful. In the past, Big Boss also greatly appreciated you."

White Sky's voice was cold and indifferent. His white and black mask was blank and without expression, but those two lines that ran down from the base of his eyes seemed even fiercer than they were before.

"Leave Blood Moon for me to deal with! You can all manage the

rest of these underlings!”

White Sky’s focus had already locked onto Blood Moon. As for Empress Naye, she quietly sat back on her throne and gently waved her hand. Eunuch Sun understood this order, and led the remaining 15 old maids and eunuchs to surround Lin Ming, Xiao Moxian, and Eunuch Liang.

Even the young eunuchs and young maids that followed Blood Moon were surrounded.

The young maid that brought washing water to Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian was already pale with fear. She had guessed that there would be nothing good coming from the Empress’ summons, but she never thought that matters would develop to this stage. The two sides were actually going to fight in Arid Peace Palace, with life and death on the line!

These young maids were well aware that if Blood Moon was defeated, they would be buried along with her. To the Empress, killing them was no different from slaughtering chickens or dogs!

And in the current situation, it seemed impossible for Blood Moon to win. Even if she could escape by herself, the young maids and eunuchs she left behind would be brutally beaten to death!

“Haha! Eunuch Liang, I never thought there would be such a day between you and me... a smart bird knows which tree to nest in. If you regret your decision, there is still time for you. I can plead sympathy for you to the Empress and perhaps the Empress will allow you to keep your cheap life.”

Eunuch Sun flicked his yellow eunuch robes, the smile of a victor on his face. As he looked at Eunuch Liang, his eyes were the same as if he were looking at a pitiful worm.

Facing such an arrogant Eunuch Sun, Eunuch Liang’s face darkened. There was no hope that he would obtain any form of safety if he voluntarily surrendered.

Currently, he was figuring out just what his chances were that he could safely escape from Arid Peace Palace.

“As well as you...” Eunuch Sun turned towards Lin Ming. “Your talent isn’t too bad. If you are willing to testify against Imperial Concubine Moon and confess to all those shameful activities that occurred between you and her, then the Empress will pardon you of your capital crimes. Perhaps you will even receive her favor and be accepted into the palace as a eunuch. You will have the chance to practice the Sunflower Melody that so many people long for in their dreams.”

Eunuch Sun said, a thoughtful and playful look on his face. Indeed, if the Empress were to get rid of Imperial Concubine Moon today, she would still need a justified reason to do so as well as evidence in order to stop the criticism of others. And, Lin Ming would make the perfect evidence as a witness.

“You want me to testify against Imperial Concubine Moon and practice the Sunflower Melody?” Lin Ming laughed, his laugh filled with reckless mirth.

Eunuch Sun frowned. “What are you laughing about?”

“He’s laughing at how stupid you are.” Xiao Moxian suddenly said, her voice clear and loud, attracting the eyes of everyone present. “A dumb old turtle like you has slaved their life away as a minion and yet you can still feel superior to anyone? Look at the disgusting thing you’ve become. You don’t seem like a ghost or a person. Is it possible that you think everyone in this world wants to be like you?”

As Xiao Moxian spoke, she smiled with glee as if she didn’t care at all for the tense atmosphere around her.

And, her actions naturally enraged Eunuch Sun!

He had already been mocked by Xiao Moxian and had been called inferior to castrated horses and donkeys. Now he was being

mocked yet again!

“You little whore, you seem to have forgotten what I’ve said. In the palace, we have the greatest forms of torture. Do you know what a wooden horse is? First we will cripple your cultivation and turn you back into a mortal. Then, we will strip you of all your clothing and make you ride the wooden horse down the streets. And, this wooden horse has all sorts of trap devices. Once you’ve understood their exquisite pain, you’ll know what it means to wish for death, hahaha...”

Eunuch Sun queerly cackled. A wooden horse was the most brutal form of punishment that a mortal palace could pass down to a woman. There was a wooden pillar on the wooden horse, and this pillar would expand up and down, ruthlessly destroying a woman’s body from the inside. Many times, the person riding the wooden horse would be tortured to death. It was an extremely cruel and barbaric form of punishment.

And in the world of martial artists, the wooden horse was formed by thorn hardwood that was tens of thousands of years old. This wood was as hard as divine iron, and with the female martial artist having their cultivation wasted away, they would equally die a miserable death from suffering.

As Eunuch Sun said such sinister and malicious words, Lin Ming’s complexion turned icy cold. His eyes burst out with blazing killing intent.

Eunuch Sun cackled once more. He simply didn’t place an early Divine Lord junior’s killing intent in his eyes. To him, this was the same as a praying mantis waving its scythes at a wild tiger.

Just as Eunuch Sun was about to spit out some more perverse words at Lin Ming to cause him to shake in fear, Lin Ming spat out two words – “Go die.”

In that moment, Eunuch Sun only saw Lin Ming’s right hand shoot out, followed by a chilling spear light!

At the same time, a primal and boundless aura covered everyone present. This aura was incomparably heavy, as if a giant mountain was pressing down on them from the sky, making them able to display less than 30% of their strength!

As Eunuch Sun was crushed by this mountain-like weight, he found that even breathing became difficult!

And at this time, Lin Ming moved!

Lin Ming's velocity reached unimaginable heights. In just a thousandth of the blink of an eye, he arrived right in from of Eunuch Sun, the Phoenix Blood Spear in his hands piercing forwards!

What!?

Eunuch Sun was panic-stricken. He never thought that Lin Ming would possess such a terrifying force field that could completely bind his movements!

He desperately resisted this pressure, wanting to block Lin Ming's strike. At the same time, he opened his mouth to spit out gray flames. He wanted to use these gray flames to force Lin Ming backwards and half his attack.

However, Lin Ming was far too strong. And under the suppression of the grandmist force field, killing Eunuch Sun was as simple as turning his hand!

With a loud cracking sound, the gray flames that Eunuch Sun spat out weren't even able to stop Lin Ming for a split-second before they were scattered by the Phoenix Blood Spear!

The long spear continued forwards with overwhelming momentum. The cold spear point thrust straight towards Eunuch Sun's throat!

And at this time, Eunuch Sun's mouth was still open from spitting out flames. As he saw this spear point nearly stab into his mouth, he was almost frightened to death!

He quickly traced his spatial ring, wanting to take out the divine runic symbol that he saved as his life-saving card. However, Lin Ming's spear was too fast. Underneath the savage attack of this spear, Eunuch Sun's protective true essence was pierced through like paper.

The Phoenix Blood Spear stabbed into Eunuch Sun's mouth, twisting apart his teeth and tongue, penetrating through his throat and exiting through the back of his head, carrying with it a rain of blood!

And at this time, Eunuch Sun no longer had the ability to use the ancient divine runic symbol that he had pulled out. With his throat pierced, the agonizing pain made him want to cry out but he couldn't make a single sound at all!

This sort of pain was indescribable!

As for Lin Ming, he raised his right hand and strung up Eunuch Sun through his throat with his spear, lifting his entire body up!

Chapter 1583 – Life Seizing Jade Talisman

Like this, Lin Ming used the Phoenix Blood Spear to pierce through Eunuch Sun and pick him up, just as if he were picking up a dog.

Eunuch Sun had yet to die. His hands gripped the spear as he struggled with all his might. His legs kicked out in desperation and his throat sent out gurgling sounds of pain. However, because his vocal cords were torn apart and his throat was destroyed, he wasn't able to make any coherent sounds at all. All he could do was struggle in agonizing pain.

A massive amount of blood leaked out from the hole in his throat like the water of a dam that had broken free. Eunuch Sun could feel his life rapidly passing away!

He never thought that he would experience such a day. He had been pierced through the throat by someone's spear and picked up, his life rapidly fading without even being able to make a single sound!

This sudden scene stunned everyone present. All of the young eunuchs and maids that followed Lin Ming here from Full Moon Hall stared at him with wide eyes. Although their cultivation wasn't high, they fully understood just how terrifying Eunuch Sun was!

Eunuch Sun was one of the chief court eunuchs of the entire imperial palace, and amongst the chief court eunuchs he faintly stood at the second rank, inferior only to the main chief court eunuch, Eunuch Wei. Eunuch Sun was someone who cultivated the Sunflower Melody for many years and the true essence in his body was vigorous and deep; his strength could already be called unfathomable.

Of all the young eunuchs and young maids in the imperial palace, just which one didn't fear Eunuch Sun? If they saw Eunuch Sun it

was the same as a mouse seeing a cat. And yet, this sort of terrifying character had been pierced through the throat and lifted up by Lin Ming's spear point!

And at the start, their impression of Lin Ming was that he had been a promising young martial artist with slightly better than average talent.

“Lin Ming... you...”

Blood Moon's eyes shined with a glimmer of splendor as she looked at Lin Ming from behind her veil. She had witnessed everything that had happened just now. If Lin Ming had used some sort of life-saving card in his hand that his Empyrean master had left him to deal with Eunuch Sun then she wouldn't have thought that was strange at all. But just now she had clearly seen that Lin Ming hadn't attacked with any foreign help at all. A terrifying force field had erupted from within Lin Ming, suppressing Eunuch Sun so that Lin Ming could subdue him without any problems!

“You... who are you!?”

The originally calm and composed Naye stood up, her eyes dim and gloomy as she looked at Lin Ming. Before this, Lin Ming's presence had been very common in this hall. His early Divine Lord cultivation was inferior to even her eunuch bodyguards'. She had only thought that Lin Ming was some unimportant nobody that she could crush like an ant, but she didn't think such a horrifying scene would occur!

At this time, assassin White Sky's complexion had also darkened. He stepped forwards and slowly said, “You... which organization are you from? To play the role of a junior and hide in the crowd, this level of concealment technique is quite skilful...”

White Sky grimly smiled as he maintained absolute vigilance around Lin Ming. He knew that someone who could severely wound Eunuch Sun so easily had strength possibly equal to his own!

For a peak Holy Lord powerhouse to be pierced through the throat in a single strike, he simply couldn't believe that this Lin Ming was a peak early Divine Lord powerhouse, but a World King in disguise!

However, he had used some cultivation concealing arcane technique to cover up his inner world, making it so that no one could see his cultivation. Whether it was White Sky or Blood Moon, both of them used such an arcane technique. When Lin Ming was at the Sky Spill Continent, even Yang Yun had used such a trick.

Covering up one's cultivation was easy but camouflaging one's cultivation was far more difficult. This was just like concealing one's appearance and changing one's appearance. If a mortal wanted to conceal their appearance, all they had to do was wear a black piece of cloth around their face. But, if they wanted to change their appearance into that of someone else, they needed profound techniques and a human skin mask. Even a top master who was especially skilled in such things would find it hard to change their appearance without a single flaw.

Thus, in the world of martial artists, there were very few arcane techniques that could allow one to camouflage their own cultivation whilst also making it so that other people of similar cultivation boundaries couldn't see through them. Moreover, these techniques were extremely difficult to learn!

At the very least, Heaven's Net didn't have such a technique. Otherwise, it would have been much easier for them to ambush and kill others.

As White Sky spoke, he used the entirety of his sense to investigate Lin Ming's inner world, wanting to find a flaw in Lin Ming's cultivation camouflaging skill. He believed that as long as he searched carefully enough, he would be able to find a flaw somewhere. However, he remained disappointed.

Lin Ming's inner world was whole and unified, without the slightest sign that it was fake. This caused White Sky to frown; was there such a perfect cultivation changing technique?

To accomplish this would be easier as a Great World King, but White Sky didn't believe that Lord Snow was able to request help from a Great World King. This was because the Emperor of the Marvel Blue Nation was a Great World King to begin with and Lord Snow was only at the Holy Lord realm. It would be extremely difficult for someone like him to put out anything that could tempt a Great World King.

"Ah... ah..."

Eunuch Sun's broken throat released miserable gurgling sounds. He reached out his hands, grasping towards the Empress, wanting the Empress to save him. But unfortunately, he could no longer voice out the words.

The Empress' complexion became extremely ugly.

Although she didn't care about Eunuch Sun's life, Eunuch Sun had still been faithful and loyal to her for all these years. With so many of her subordinates around her, it was impossible for her to not rescue him and cause her subordinates to doubt her. Moreover, to Lin Ming who dared challenge her dignity, she hated him to the marrow of her bones.

"Release him!"

The Empress coldly said, her eyes shining with a chilling light.

"I should release him just because you say so? Who do you think you are? You are just the wife of some World King Holy Land's bandit chief! Do you really you are an Empress that commands the world? Your cultivation is only at the half-step World King realm. To only be a half-step World King after 100,000 years, you are already doomed to mediocrity. Someone with your middling level of talent is only barely noticeable. In the past when I competed in

the First Martial Meeting you wouldn't even have the qualifications to be crushed by me, and yet here you are, acting all domineering, trying to boss me around. How ridiculous!"

Lin Ming jeered, his hand still holding onto his spear as Eunuch Sun dangled on it like a dog.

"You are courting death!"

Empress Naye said, her complexion ugly. Her talent wasn't anything to someone of Lin Ming's level, but in the Marvel Blue Nation she was a proud daughter of heaven and had stood at the top for a long time. The arrogance of a ruler had already formed in her bones, so how could she allow Lin Ming to mock her like this?

She traced her spatial ring and took out a charm. This charm was not made from symbol paper but was carved upon white jade, its entire body shining with light!

Naye was well aware that Lin Ming was likely stronger than she was, thus she didn't attack him directly. Instead, she flung out the charm in her hand!

"Life Seizing Talisman! Peak sixth grade divine runic symbol!"

Eunuch Liang shouted out from behind Lin Ming. This was a warning to tell Lin Ming that this was a peak sixth grade divine runic symbol, one that stemmed from the hands of a peak sixth grade divine runic master. And, a peak sixth grade divine runic master was a Great World King!

In order to use this Life Seizing Talisman, the minimum requirement was that one needed to be a half-step World King. Once it was used, its might would be unimaginable. It could severely wound a World King, and if they weren't careful, it could even kill them!

This sort of divine runic symbol was priceless and ordinary half-step World Kings wouldn't have the wealth or qualifications to use it. Only someone as rich as Naye could keep such a life-saving card

in her hands!

“Retreat!”

Eunuch Liang screamed. Once this divine runic symbol was used, all ordinary World Kings had no choice but to withdraw!

Hu - !

The divine runic symbol burned as the white jade seemed to melt away. Many of the lines hidden in the white jade dissipated into the air. These lines were asura dao patterns and corresponded to the Asura Heavenly Dao. This divine runic symbol borrowed the power of the Asura Heavenly Dao to kill one's enemies.

Seeing these wildly spinning Heavenly Dao lines, Lin Ming only sneered. Not only did he not retreat but he instead moved forwards!

In understanding the Asura Heavenly Dao, no one could compare with him. In this aspect, not even a seventh grade divine runic master could hold a candle to Lin Ming!

This sort of divine runic symbol was only one of the killing Laws of the Asura Heavenly Dao. In Lin Ming's eyes, there were at least 100 different ways to break it!

Lin Ming didn't use too much true essence. He only used 30-40% of his strength to thrust his spear forwards, right into the center of this asura patterns that were dancing in the air!

This caused everyone to suck in a deep breath of surprise.

“Lin Ming!”

Blood Moon cried out in alarm. Even when she was in her peak condition she still couldn't directly meet the might of this Life Seizing Talisman but would have to use everything at her disposal to block it. Yet, Lin Ming actually thrust his spear out, right at the Life Seizing Talisman. Once that talisman exploded, Lin Ming would explode into a bloody mess!

“Die!” Seeing Lin Ming arrogantly rush towards that Life Seizing Talisman, Empress Naye cruelly smiled. She wanted to see Lin Ming’s body torn to shreds.

However, as Lin Ming thrust his spear into the patterns in the air, an unbelievable scene occurred.

The array symbols, beneath the spear light of the Phoenix Blood Spear, didn’t explode. Instead, they began to rapidly dim down.

With a crackling sound, the jade talisman violently trembled as many dao patterns were scattered by the spear light. Innumerable tiny runes began to escape like frightened frogs.

Light flashed amongst the runes as if the energy hidden within them was about to erupt. But in the end, they finally extinguished, turning the jade talisman into a dud that lost all of its power!

“This... this is...”

Empress Naye’s eyes became as round as full moons, her expression twisting into something like a maze. Every divine runic symbol that was sold would undergo all sorts of tests to verify it, so it was impossible for a situation to appear where it was actually a dud. And, her top sixth grade divine runic symbol had been purchased with a nearly insane amount of money and had also been carefully examined. Just how could it possibly fizzle away like this?

Could it be that there was something strange in Lin Ming’s spear light just now?

Naye didn’t dare to believe this, but she had heard that when divine runic symbols were used to attack top divine runic masters, their effects would be greatly reduced. But that sort of situation would only appear when low level divine runic symbols were used to attack high level divine runic masters.

For instance, a fifth grade divine runic symbol being used against a sixth grade divine runic master.

And the divine runic symbol she used was a peak sixth grade one. It couldn't be that this young man in front of her was a seventh grade divine runic master!

At this time, all the masters within Arid Peace Palace were shocked silent. In particular, Blood Moon. There were great waves rushing about in her heart. She was well aware that although Lin Ming was indeed a divine runic master, he had only just passed his third grade divine runic master examination!

Could a third grade divine runic master break through a peak sixth grade divine runic symbol?

Chapter 1584 – Blood Splashing Through Arid Peace Palace

When Old Su introduced Lin Ming to Blood Moon, she had also learned about his approximate age, talent, and skill in the divine runic arts.

Although Blood Moon was stunned, being stunned was useless because she felt that Lin Ming wouldn't be able to help her; he was simply far too young.

What Blood Moon really cared about was Lin Ming's master, but when she asked Old Su about Lin Ming's master, Old Su hadn't been able to tell her anything at all. Thus, that was the reason why Blood Moon invited Lin Ming for a conversation. But as a result, she didn't have much hope that she would be able to build a relationship with Lin Ming's master because her level was simply far too low.

White Sky thought that Lin Ming was a World King camouflaged as a Divine Lord realm martial artist. But, Blood Moon knew the truth about Lin Ming's cultivation as well as his skeletal age when he entered Divine Rune City!

Let alone that faking his skeletal age was far more difficult, there was simply no reason for Lin Ming to do so. What advantage would there be in hiding his unparalleled talent?

Before sixty years of age, Lin Ming had such an abnormal combat strength and he also managed to find the method to break through the Life Seizing Talisman. Blood Moon could no longer imagine just what sort of heaven-defying character Lin Ming was.

And at this time, after Lin Ming shattered the Life Seizing Talisman he didn't stop there. He grasped the Phoenix Blood Spear and pointed it straight towards Empress Naye. His dreadful killing intent had locked onto her!

He clearly wanted to attack Naye!

“Protect the Empress!”

The 15 remaining eunuchs and maids that Eunuch Sun had led saw Lin Ming stepping forwards, one step at a time. All of them gathered in front of their Empress, keeping her safe behind them.

The 18 Clear King Array beneath their feet had already been broken by Blood Moon. Now that they had lost three people, their battle array was no longer complete, and without that battle array they simply didn't have the strength to resist Lin Ming!

The 15 eunuchs and maids were deathly pale, their minds trembling. If the Empress died they would all be buried along with her, but facing Lin Ming, they would die all the same!

Lin Ming was like a death god. One step at a time, he finally reached within 100 feet of the Empress' Throne. At this mere 100 foot distance, even though Naye herself had undergone countless storms and tribulations in the harem, her complexion still changed. She simply didn't know where Lin Ming's depths were!

“White Sky!”

Naye sent a true essence sound transmission. The only one who could deal with Lin Ming right now was the Heaven's Net leader, White Sky!

However, White Sky hesitated, not moving in front of the Empress.

“You - !”

The Empress' heart sank. She only had a cooperative relationship with White Sky, not one where she had employed him. If he felt that today's matters were too tricky and gave birth to the thought of retreating then her situation would become far worse!

Then, a boundlessly deep aura erupted from Lin Ming's body once more. This aura covered the entire Arid Peace Palace!

This was Lin Ming's grandmist space!

As Lin Ming grew stronger, the power of the grandmist space grew increasingly terrifying. Moreover, this space was also flooded with the star-heavy grandmist energy!

When the grandmist energy superimposed over this force field, it placed an incomparably dreadful pressure on the Empress and her 15 eunuchs and maids!

The Empress could still barely summon 40-50% of her true essence, but the maids and eunuchs around her could barely remain stable! Each of them dripped with a cold sweat, their entire body shaking like an earthquake as if they were mortals that saw a devil.

Lin Ming didn't care about these little underlings. He looked towards the Empress and smiled, "Didn't you want me to return this dead dog minion of yours? Then here he is!"

As Lin Ming spoke, he raised the Phoenix Blood Spear and thrust straight towards Empress Naye!

And hanging atop this spear point was Eunuch Sun's half dead body!

"P-protect... protect the Empress!"

A eunuch shouted out. However, even though he shouted out these words his feet were like roots planted in the ground, unable to move at all!

This was because the pressure of the grandmist space was suppressing his movements and also because Lin Ming's momentum was far too overwhelming. Anyone who dared to block that spear of his would undoubtedly die. In this situation, who would still dare to stand in front of Lin Ming's spear?

Ca!

A brilliant spear light shot across Arid Peace Palace. Three

eunuchs that bore the initial brunt of the attack were swept away by the energy winds. At the same time, Lin Ming opened the Heretical God Force to the limit as he primed the strength of a True Dragon within his body!

With a resonant dragon's cry, the phantom of an Azure Dragon appeared behind Lin Ming, savagely roaring!

A powerful dragon's dignity spread out, combining with the power of the grandmist space and Lin Ming's roiling killing intent to lock onto Empress Naye, preventing her from escaping!

However, Lin Ming's spear hadn't used his full strength. This was because he could feel that when he attacked, White Sky had still locked onto him from behind.

White Sky had a World King realm cultivation and Lin Ming couldn't help but be cautious of a World King powerhouse. Moreover, White Sky was a leader of Heaven's Net which specialized in assassinating others; who knew what sort of strange killing techniques he would have. If Lin Ming wasn't careful, then it was possible he would find unexpected defeat.

"How detestable!"

As Lin Ming's spear light approached, Empress Naye screeched out loud. She pulled out two divine runic symbol jade slips from her spatial ring and crumbled them to dust.

In that instant, the jade slips dissolved into numerous complex dao patterns that wrapped around Naye. These were clearly sixth grade defensive divine runic symbols!

Lin Ming only sneered as he saw these divine runic symbols. As his spear light was about to strike Naye, it immediately changed directions.

Bang!

With a loud explosive sound the spear light erupted. The power of thunder and fire heavenly tribulation within the Phoenix Blood

Spear wove together and detonated. Eunuch Sun, who was still hung on the Phoenix Blood Spear, emitted one last cry of pain as his entire body was split up by the explosion and his remnants sprinkled down in a rain of flesh and blood!

A wild and fierce strength crashed into the divine runic symbols that surrounded Naye. These divine runic symbols only lasted for a single breath of time before they also exploded to pieces.

Naye paled, her beautiful face losing all of its composure. In this life or death moment she slashed out with her sword at Lin Ming's power of thunder and fire heavenly tribulation!

But, the difference in strength was far too great. Even though Lin Ming had held back 60% of his strength, Naye still wasn't able to resist this attack!

Brutal torrents of energy fell down. Naye's protective true essence shattered like glass. With a cry of alarm, her entire body shook. Even her protective robes made from threads of blue snow gold and sky work silk were ripped apart!

And even though this spear light had been weakened again and again, it still smashed into Naye's chest!

Puff!

Naye spat out a mouthful of blood as she was sent flying backwards!

Violent energy currents swept through all of Arid Peace Palace. The tiles were lifted up off the floor and disintegrated into powder in the air. If it wasn't for the presence of the grandmist space then the entirety of Arid Peace Palace would have been destroyed!

Naye was covered in blood. This blood was hers as well as Eunuch Sun's. Bits and pieces of Eunuch Sun's exploded body had splashed onto Naye, making the sight of her horrible to behold!

Lin Ming took a sudden step forwards, wanting to continue with his attack. But then, his footsteps paused and he stayed his hand.

As his spear strike had severely wounded Naye, he had never lost track of White Sky.

And this White Sky had decided to launch a sneak attack as Lin Ming had just finished his own attack!

Lin Ming coldly smirked. He had kept back 60% of his strength just now all in order to defend against White Sky. Even if White Sky suddenly attacked now, with the 60% of his strength he had reserved and the 20-30% he had just restored, it would be more than enough to block White Sky's attack!

However, just as White Sky moved, Lin Ming's complexion changed. He could see White Sky's figure suddenly blurring before disappearing altogether!

“Afterimage!?”

Lin Ming grimaced. White Sky was indeed worthy of being a World King assassin leader. His movements were ghostly and phantasmal and the afterimage technique he used just now was far too lifelike in the current situation. Because Lin Ming had originally thought that White Sky was going to sneak attack him, he hadn't been able to immediately see through this afterimage!

In only a thousandth of an instant, White Sky's figure appeared in front of Xiao Moxian!

The target he chose to attack was actually Xiao Moxian!

White Sky was an extremely cunning individual. He knew that because of Lin Ming's appearance today, it would be impossible for him to accomplish his goal. Lin Ming's strength might not be inferior to his own. If he wanted to kill Lin Ming and Blood Moon here then that would be hopelessly impossible.

Thus, White Sky intended to retreat from this battlefield.

But he couldn't leave empty-handed, he needed at least a tiny bit of gain. Capturing Blood Moon was not possible so he had decided to target Xiao Moxian instead!

He could see that Xiao Moxian had an extremely significant relationship with Lin Ming.

After they entered Arid Peace Palace, their relationship could be guessed by the way they acted around each other as well as how they stood together. There was a 99% chance that Xiao Moxian was Lin Ming's dual cultivation dao companion!

For martial artists that lived for such a long time, the lives of their concubines and living furnaces were unimportant; to think of using them to threaten a martial artist was stupid at best. Sometimes, even their wives weren't worth enough.

But a dual cultivation dao companion was different. In particular, White Sky could see that Xiao Moxian had an extraordinary bloodline and her talent was extremely high. A dual cultivation dao companion could only be found through a stroke of fate. To Lin Ming, she was likely an extremely important person. If he could capture her then he could force Lin Ming into submission.

He didn't expect that he would be able to force Lin Ming to help him deal with Blood Moon, but he could at least force Lin Ming to not interfere in his battle with her. As long as Lin Ming didn't interfere then he had the means to deal with Blood Moon.

To use an afterimage to confuse Lin Ming, the reality was that he was aiming for Xiao Moxian. His plan was well thought out!

The moment that White Sky appeared in front of Xiao Moxian, Blood Moon's expression lit up with surprise! She was much closer to Xiao Moxian than Lin Ming was, but even so she didn't have enough time to respond. White Sky had attacked too suddenly and his movement speed had reached an incredible level!

“Be careful!”

Blood Moon hurtled forwards, wanting to block off White Sky's escape direction. At the same time, her killing intent locked onto White Sky. She even wanted to activate her Endlessly Long Night

force field, but with her true essence being corroded by the parasitic field she simply wasn't able to use it! And at this time, White Sky's hands were already reaching out towards Xiao Moxian!

“You're coming with me!”

White Sky's expression was fierce and savage. But in this moment, Xiao Moxian coldly sneered, “Do you think you can knead me like mud?”

True phoenix blood, burn!

Bang!

With a loud explosion, black flames ignited all over Xiao Moxian!

The heat of these blazing flames reached unimaginable degrees. Even the array formation-supported tiles beneath her instantly turned to steam!

Facing a World King powerhouse, although Xiao Moxian couldn't win, this didn't mean she couldn't defend herself. She burned her phoenix blood essence, using the strongest ability she had gained after undergoing her phoenix nirvana!

Chapter 1585 – Fighting White Sky

Raging flames surged about and waves of heat howled through the air. A sun seemed to ignite within Xiao Moxian's body.

In that moment, from behind Xiao Moxian, a massive black phoenix phantom soared into the air. This phoenix phantom was also wrapped in flames and the moment it appeared, the vault of Arid Peace Palace began to be scorched away. The carvings and paintings that decorated the palace began to melt into the walls.

White Sky never imagined that this sort of change would occur just as he was about to capture Xiao Moxian. This young girl with her low cultivation was actually able to burst out with such a terrifying strength!

“Counterforce – Heaven Absorbing Demon Art!”

Xiao Moxian drew her whip and slashed it outwards. This whip burned with flames. At the same time, the dark power within the Heaven Absorbing Demon Art erupted out, swallowing the void and locking White Sky in a thick and viscous darkness!

“Concept of Darkness sixth level! Concept of Fire seventh level!”

White Sky sucked in a cold breath. This common-looking young woman had actually achieved such horrifying attainments in the Fire and Darkness Laws!

White Sky's short sword thrust out. In this moment White Sky didn't hold back at all and attacked with everything he had. Facing Xiao Moxian, who was burning her phoenix blood essence, he had no choice but to be cautious of her.

Ca!

The sword light cut through the whip shadows. Flames filled the skies, howling and raging. Xiao Moxian took a step back as she lashed out with her whip once more!

But her whip wasn't aimed at White Sky. Rather, the whip shadows spread all over White Sky, forming an enchantment barrier around him!

This enchantment didn't have any striking power but it actually locked White Sky within it, making it difficult for him to use that strange and ghostly movement technique.

“Mm!?”

White Sky was shocked. Xiao Moxian had set up an enchantment around him!

An ominous feeling appeared in his heart. At this time, he could feel a profound killing intent growing behind him, savage and turbulent!

He turned around to see that Lin Ming had grasped his Phoenix Blood Spear. Lin Ming's hair fluttered in the wind as he rushed forwards like a demon god!

Facing White Sky, Lin Ming was filled with killing intent. Originally, Lin Ming had the mentality that he wouldn't fight with this person unless he had to. After all, this White Sky was a World King powerhouse and fighting with him at this time wasn't the wisest course of action. But, he never thought that White Sky would actually attack Xiao Moxian. This action had irreversibly touched upon Lin Ming's reverse scale, the source of rage!

Lin Ming hadn't held back in this strike. The Heretical God Force completely exploded within him and inside his inner world, the Purple Temple Dao Palace began to open!

In that moment, the world seemed to fall away. Arid Peace Palace vanished as everyone seemed to suddenly appear in the boundless starry skies of the endless universe!

Everyone stood in this void, surrounded by infinite space. And above the heads of these people, nine stars began to appear!

Of these nine stars, seven were bright and two were dark. Their

locations seemed to faintly hint at the highest truths of the Great Dao. Endless starlight fell down as trillions of silver threads fell onto Lin Ming.

A terrifying killing intent surged out in all directions. With Lin Ming's inner world as the center, this starlight crazily gathered into him, forming a terrifying river of stars that swirled around him. The space around everyone seemed to be locked down, completely disconnected from the outside world.

In this instant, everyone in Arid Peace Palace was left stunned!

“This is...”

Blood Moon looked at the nine stars in the skies, her eyes filled with utter disbelief. She had also once tried to dual cultivate body and energy so she was well aware what these nine stars meant!

“Nine Stars of the Dao Palace... this is the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace!”

Blood Moon felt as if everything she knew had been turned upside-down!

The Nine Stars of the Dao Palace was a legendary realm that was forbidden by the Heavenly Dao rules. Lin Ming was less than 60 years old so when he had asked Blood Moon to borrow the Celestial Tyrant Manual, she had urged him to forget about the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace because it was simply far too unrealistic.

Lin Ming had lived in Full Moon Hall for over half a month but in the end, Blood Moon hadn't lent the Celestial Tyrant Manual to him. One reason was because she didn't think that Lin Ming would be able to help her, and another reason was that even if she were to lend it to him, there would simply be no meaning to it. He wouldn't be able to cultivate it and would just be wasting his time.

But she never would have imagined that the truth was that Lin Ming had already stepped into the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace!

The reason he had asked her to borrow the Nine Stars of the Dao

Palace section of the Celestial Tyrant Manual was because he had already cultivated it!

“How is this... possible...”

Blood Moon could no longer understand Lin Ming. This was not a question of talent anymore. She couldn't think of just what lucky chance existed that could allow him to break into the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace.

Many of the martial artists present were talented but they hadn't chosen to walk the path of dual body and energy cultivation. And, the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace had already disappeared for billions of years, so even though they saw these stars appear behind Lin Ming they still didn't know just what they were.

They could only feel that this was a dreadful phenomenon. As those nine stars appeared in the skies, all of the human martial artists present felt their blood vitality gravitating towards those nine stars, as if all the blood running within their bodies wanted to howl out of them!

Then, Lin Ming attacked!

The Nine Stars of the Dao Palace was currently Lin Ming's greatest strength. The boundary he had reached had already surpassed the early Divine Lord realm of the essence gathering system!

Explosive crackling sounds lit up from within Lin Ming's body. The galactic storm within his inner world erupted and his bodily strength reached 15 billion jins. When combined with the techniques of the Celestial Tyrant Manual, Lin Ming's striking power rose to the strength of five dragons!

Bang!

A horrifying air wave burst outwards. Even the dual imprisonment of Xiao Moxian's enchantment and the grandmist space wasn't able to cage this terrifying strength. The entirety of

Arid Peace Palace was torn apart by the explosions of energy, completely collapsing!

“Asura Heavenly Dao – Demon Extermination!”

Lin Ming once again used a move from the Asura Sutra. He was only just able to use this technique when he gathered the power of the nine stars unto himself. He had once used this Demon Extermination technique to kill Tian Mingzi!

Out of all of Lin Ming’s attacks, it could be called his strongest one!

As Lin Ming thrust out his spear, space itself was crushed!

Facing this attack, White Sky’s complexion changed.

Although he didn’t recognize the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace he could still feel the wild and tyrannical power erupting from within Lin Ming. With this strength used by the present Lin Ming, he resembled an ancient great dragon!

How could one’s strength reach such a terrifying degree!?

In that moment, White Sky’s body ballooned outwards. All of the strength contained within his inner world burst out!

White Sky held his sword, his feet dancing on seven stars. His body emitted a creamy white light, a light that contained a primal flavor beyond description.

Of the nine tribulation Laws of metal, wood, water, fire, earth, wind, thunder, yin, and yang, this was the Yang Laws!

The Yang Laws stood above the five elements. When the universe formed, first came chaos, then came yin and yang!

Yin and yang came after chaos and grandmist; it was one of the most extreme source Laws! It was only an extremely rare breed of person who thoroughly mastered the Yang Laws.

In the past, White Sky had stumbled upon a great lucky chance and had obtained an ancient inheritance concerning the Yang

Laws. By coincidence, his physique also happened to be suited to practicing the Yang Laws. This was the main reason he was able to struggle through the plot-filled assassination organization of Heaven's Net and slowly crawl his way to becoming a World King and assassin leader!

At White Sky slashed out his short sword, all of the surrounding light was swallowed up by this luminescent white divine light, as if the heavens and earth were isolated outwards.

The eunuchs and maids of Arid Peace Palace were suppressed by this dreadful divine light and found it difficult to breathe. Their blood vitality restlessly surged within their bodies, on the verge of exploding out from them!

Peng!

With a loud crack, two eunuchs of Arid Peace Palace blew up into pieces. But as their bodies exploded there was no blood that splashed out. Rather, their bodies evaporated beneath this white divine light, dissipating into nothingness!

This caused all of the eunuchs and maids with lower cultivations to shiver. As long as this divine light shined upon them then their bodies would disintegrate; how could they not be terrified of such a scene!

“Retreat!”

Xiao Moxian suddenly called out. Xiao Moxian was the closest one to Lin Ming and White Sky's battle but she didn't fear the shock waves of their attacks. Rather, it was the young maids and eunuchs of Full Moon Hall that could not withstand this pressure.

The long whip in her hand slashed out, wrapping around four or five frightened eunuchs and maids. Then, she drew backwards, preventing them from being covered by the divine light.

White Sky's Yang Laws were similar to a force field. This force field wildly clashed with Lin Ming's grandmist space!

Chi chi chi!

As the white light entered the grandmist space, it rapidly dissipated like snow falling into molten iron. As the two force fields collided, the difference could be seen with a glance.

The Yin Yang Laws originally came after the Grandmist Laws. Moreover, Lin Ming's grandmist space was established by Empyrean Primordius and there was true grandmist energy supporting it!

The power of this grandmist space had long reached unimaginable levels!

As White Sky watched his own force field be swallowed up by the grandmist space, his complexion changed. White Sky was also a ruthless and decisive individual. In this grave and imminent danger, he forced out a mouthful of blood essence. This blood essence brilliantly burned, its strength used by White Sky to fiercely raise the power of his Yang Laws.

For a time, White Sky's sword light became increasingly ancient, as if it were a blade that shuttled through the endless years to slash forth from the nothingness of the most primitive times.

This was the atmosphere of the absolute beginning!

Beneath the superimposed power of two force fields, Lin Ming's spear light collided with White Sky's sword light.

Bang!

In that strike, the sun and moon lost their luster and the world lost all light!

A horrifying surge of energy exploded from the center of the grandmist space and yang force field! If it weren't for the barrier of these dual force fields then this strike would have swept up the entire imperial palace in a storm. Within this storm, all other buildings besides those protected by the strongest array formations would have turned to ash!

Puff!

White Sky spat out a mouthful of fresh blood and was sent flying backwards. As for Lin Ming, his body shook and his blood tumbled within him.

In that exchange just now when Lin Ming had erupted with all his strength, White Sky had managed to use the Yang Laws to screen out most of Lin Ming's strength and then block Lin Ming's spear light with his own sword light.

"Genesis energy! In his Yang Laws, he had already evolved elementary genesis energy! Although it is only a tiny bit, it is still dreadful. Indeed, it seems there isn't a single World King powerhouse that is simple at all!"

Lin Ming thought to himself, stunned. In this world, there were three great source powers – grandmist energy, genesis energy, and spirit source!

Genesis energy was able to stand on the same level as grandmist energy!

Chapter 1586 – Imperial Palace's Great Chief Eunuch

Of the three major source powers, none of them were a trifling matter.

Grandmist energy – the source of matter.

Genesis energy – the source of energy.

Spirit source – the source of soul.

When these three source powers were unified, they formed essence, energy, and divine!

In the past, it was because Lin Ming lacked spirit source that Divine Dream didn't allow Lin Ming to study the Divine Dream Law.

Each one of the three major source powers was incomparably precious. The reason that Lin Ming was able to possess so much grandmist energy was because he inherited it from Empyrean Primordius. By himself, it would have been impossible to obtain it. This was because grandmist energy had almost completely disappeared after the forming of the universe. It was said that grandmist energy still existed in black holes, but black holes were celestial bodies where the gravitational force reached such an extreme that it created a force field around itself, an absolutely separate space. Even an Empyrean couldn't enter one!

Empyrean Divine Seal's Divine Seal Art was founded with inspiration from black holes.

It was incredible that this White Sky was able to cultivate a tiny amount of elementary genesis energy in his attacks. It was clear that he had once obtained a powerful inheritance, and although this inheritance was inferior to the Primordius martial intent, it should still have been on the level of a transcendent divine might.

At this time, Arid Peace Palace, which was supported with all sorts of array formations and was comparable to a spirit artifact, was completely razed to the ground. Empress Naye had been injured in the chaos. Her entire body was drenched in blood and she looked miserable.

In the center of the battlefield, the only ones left were Lin Ming and White Sky, standing in harsh opposition with each other!

In that strike just now, White Sky had been forced to burn some of his blood essence and had even suffered a loss. As for Lin Ming, he had only been forced back with his blood tumbling within him; the difference could be easily seen.

Everyone who stood on the Empress' side was currently looking at Lin Ming with fear and dread in their eyes. Even White Sky wasn't Lin Ming's match!

A World King powerhouse had been suppressed by Lin Ming!

At this time, the maids and eunuchs of Arid Peace Palace who luckily survived were all trembling with fear. The pressure that Lin Ming placed upon them was too great. With the aura of the grandmist force field also covering them, they couldn't even stand steady.

And at this time, the one with the most tumultuous mood was Blood Moon.

It was already shocking when Lin Ming displayed the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace, but afterwards when Lin Ming used that terrifying 15 billion jins of strength, he actually used an arcane technique to increase his strength to 50 billion jins: the strength of five dragons!

When Blood Moon saw this technique Lin Ming used, she felt it was strangely familiar.

“Celestial Tyrant Manual? This is the Celestial Tyrant Manual? This Lin Ming actually understands the Celestial Tyrant Manual?”

All sorts of chaotic emotions swelled in Blood Moon's heart. She thought that the Celestial Tyrant Manual was a unique cultivation method manual and yet Lin Ming also knew of it?

"No wonder... no wonder he would request the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace section of the Celestial Tyrant Manual from me... it is because he already practiced the Eight Inner Hidden Gates section to the peak and has even opened the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace!"

Blood Moon mumbled to herself. She felt that this youth in front of her was filled with riddles.

White Sky's complexion was grim. In that collision of force fields just now when White Sky's yang force field had smashed into Lin Ming's grandmist space, the disparity had been evident.

This sort of disparity manifested in the grade of the force fields!

The yang force field was originally not as exquisite as the grandmist space. Moreover, there was a massive amount of grandmist energy that flooded the grandmist space; this was true grandmist energy, not elementary grandmist energy!

And within the yang force field, there was only elementary genesis energy.

This sort of difference couldn't even be described with clouds and mud. The only reason that White Sky had suffered a small loss was because his cultivation was far deeper than Lin Ming's. With the difference in their cultivation boundaries he had forcefully made up for their force fields to block Lin Ming's Demon Extermination.

"Divine Lord realm... you really are at the Divine Lord realm?"

As White Sky looked at Lin Ming, there was a strange trembling in his voice!

In that exchange just now, he had been able to confirm what Lin Ming's boundary was!

The true essence standard that Lin Ming displayed, although it far surpassed all other early Divine Lord martial artists, could still be explained with the reasoning that he was an unrivalled genius. Even so, it was explainable. In other words, Lin Ming didn't truly surpass the Divine Lord realm!

At first he had thought that Lin Ming was a World King powerhouse that had concealed himself, but no matter how profound a World King powerhouse was at camouflaging their cultivation, it would be impossible for them to maintain a Divine Lord realm cultivation in the heat of battle. Otherwise, they would be brutally beaten by others.

“You... just who are you?”

White Sky said with raging emotions. He found it hard to keep his expression or tone calm. Ever since he joined Heaven's Net as a child, he had grown one step at a time until he became a leader. He had experienced the sandy plains of slaughter numerous times and had walked upon the thread of life or death almost daily. Even so, this was an expression that he rarely showed. He had long since formed a mindset where he could face death without panicking, but now that he faced such a terrifying character like Lin Ming he was actually left flustered.

Nothing about Lin Ming could be explained with common sense!

Lin Ming didn't bother replying to White Sky. He slowly stepped forwards, closing the distance between them, his focus locked onto his enemy the entire time. When his focus was combined with that star-heavy grandmist energy, it seemed menacing and forceful!

White Sky's complexion changed. He couldn't help but take a step backwards. “Do you really want to bet life or death with me?”

“Isn't that what you just did?” Lin Ming coldly sneered.

“I was trying to capture your dual cultivation dao companion but I wasn't planning to do anything to her. I only wanted to use her to

threaten you to retreat and stay out of the internal struggles of my Heaven's Net. I didn't attack you nor did I have the thought of killing your dao companion!" White Sky explained his motives. But, in doing so, he had already admitted defeat.

However, Lin Ming disregarded this explanation. "And yet your actions have enraged me even more."

"Even if you try as hard as you can, you still won't be able to keep me here!" White Sky's eyebrows shot up. He had absolute confidence in his own movement techniques.

"Yes, but perhaps I might try to leave some mark on you."

"Why must you be so forceful?" White Sky said, frowning. He still hadn't unraveled who Lin Ming was and he didn't want to offend someone he knew absolutely nothing about.

He had already thought of escaping.

But at this time, the grandmist force field that shrouded Arid Peace Palace strengthened by several points, as if it wanted to completely lock down this space!

Although White Sky's movement techniques were skillful he was still temporarily stuck in this grandmist space!

If White Sky were to attack he could definitely break open the grandmist space. But at this time, Lin Ming would definitely take the chance to attack him. White Sky would be hard pressed to split his attention and would likely be severely wounded by Lin Ming.

Then, it would really be as Lin Ming said; there would be a mark left behind on his body!

Thinking of this, White Sky's voice became dreary. "Do you think that I've already shown my hand and I don't have a final all-out attack?"

As an assassin leader of Heaven's Net who had risked his life over tens of thousands of years in Heaven's Net, survived and even

come out on top, it wasn't a surprise that he had some final trump card in his hand.

And as Lin Ming faced White Sky's threat, he remained silent as before, still not removing the grandmist force field!

"Good! You're ruthless enough!" White Sky's voice carried with it an icy chill.

For two masters to fight to such a degree had already exceeded everyone's expectations. Lin Ming had hidden himself in this crowd of masters and had crippled Eunuch Sun with a single strike, destroyed Empress Naye's divine runic symbol jade slips, and then suppressed World King White Sky; his strength was unbelievable!

Not only was Lin Ming abnormal but his dual cultivation companion wasn't easy to deal with either. Although she seemed like a charming and delicate young girl, she was actually able to erupt with a horrifying combat strength. Even White Sky had been forced to avoid her attack.

These two people gave off a feeling as if they didn't belong to this world. They were strong to the point of disbelief.

And as White Sky was about to use his desperate trump card to engage in a bloody final battle with Lin Ming, an old voice echoed outwards –

"Why must you fight to this degree..."

As this voice sounded out, the killing intent that pervaded the air suddenly diminished.

Everyone turned around to see an old yellow-robed man calmly stepping towards them, walking on the wind!

This yellow-robed old man had a face covered with wrinkles and a head of white hair.

His voice was old with a strange sharpness to it, making him

sound bizarre. He wore yellow robes in the style of a eunuch, with the difference that there was a golden dragon embroidered on his front and back.

In the imperial palace, a dragon was the symbol of royal authority. Only the emperor and crown prince had the qualifications to wear imperial robes, and the crown prince's imperial robes had a dragon with one less claw, a four-clawed golden dragon.

This old eunuch wore yellow robes with the image of a four-clawed golden dragon. In other words, he had status equal to that of a crown prince! But, the truth was that the Marvel Blue Nation had no crown prince. In other words, within the Marvel Blue Nation, this eunuch had status second only to the Marvel Blue Emperor!

That meant his status was extraordinary!

He was one of the three World King masters that commanded the Marvel Blue Nation below the Marvel Blue Emperor; he was the great chief eunuch of the imperial palace, Eunuch Wei!

Chapter 1587 – To Admit Defeat

“Greetings, Empress.”

Eunuch Wei slightly bowed as he set down on the floor.

His words were peaceful with a hint of true essence poured into them. This true essence rushed into Empress Naye’s body like a cool wind, making the pain wracking her body feel much better.

Within the Marvel Blue Nation, besides the Marvel Blue Emperor, there were three other World Kings. The Grand Marshal was in charge of the military, the Imperial Scholar was in charge of political affairs, and Great Chief Eunuch Wei was in charge of internal affairs and national resources. This included managing blue snow gold, the various heavenly materials, assigning resources, expenses of the imperial palace, and even the daily matters of tens of thousands of maids and eunuchs in the imperial palace. All of this was within Eunuch Wei’s hands. He could be said to have tremendous power and influence.

Although this type of character had to greet the Empress based upon court etiquette, the truth was that within the Marvel Blue Nation, his status was faintly above that of the Empress.

This was the world of martial artists in which strength ruled supreme. In the world of martial artists, even if one founded an imperial power as their center, it would still be different from a mortal’s imperial palace. Those without strength, whether it was a prince or imperial concubine, none of them would be able to stand out.

Lin Ming was vigilant against this Eunuch Wei who just appeared. This person’s aura was deep and his true essence was restrained; it was hard to judge what the limit of his strength was.

Although he was an ordinary World King, there were still those that were strong and weak within the World King realm. Lin Ming

could feel that this Eunuch Wei was even stronger than White Sky.

Thus, he had no choice but to be cautious of him.

After all, Eunuch Wei was likely not on their side.

After Naye restored a bit of her strength, she stood back up. With a wave of her hand, the bloodstains that covered her evaporated. Even Eunuch Sun's shredded meat was burnt into ash.

Her robes of blue snow gold and sky work silk had originally been a treasure, and now that the blood had evaporated and the ash fell away, they immediately became bright and clean again. Unfortunately, the robe itself had been torn by Lin Ming, causing Naye's grandeur to be reduced by a great deal.

"Eunuch Wei... you have come. I am happy to see you here."

Naye smiled. She didn't do as Lin Ming thought she would and accuse Lin Ming, Blood Moon, and the others of conspiring to rebel against her to Eunuch Wei. Rather, she only said that she was happy to see him, completely ignoring the fact that Arid Peace Palace had been razed to the ground and she herself had been severely beaten up.

With this, Lin Ming couldn't help but measure the Empress a few points higher.

Eunuch Wei had already managed affairs within the imperial palace for hundreds of thousands of years and naturally understood what was happening. As for the disputes of the throne, he didn't take a side nor did he divide between right or wrong. Whoever was stronger would be able to take the throne. To the victor went the spoils; this was the only truth.

When the old Emperor went into seclusion, he had told Eunuch Wei not to interfere in the affairs of the imperial struggle. But now that Arid Peace Palace was destroyed, and with the possibility that the entire imperial palace might be ruined if this fight continued any longer, Eunuch Wei had to interfere.

“Everyone, how about we end today’s matter as is? The Empress and Imperial Concubine Moon should also be tired? Perhaps it would be good if you were to return to your quarters to rest.”

With Eunuch Wei’s appearance, he spoke a few words in order to defuse the conflict.

Just as the two sides were about to engage in a life or death fight, a word to pause the battle and they had paused. In a situation where either side would suffer a loss if they continued, this was the only choice they could make.

Lin Ming looked deeply at White Sky. In truth, he also knew that with his strength, although he could defeat White Sky if he used everything at his disposal, killing him wasn’t likely.

And in the imperial palace, if he wanted to kill the Empress then Eunuch Wei wouldn’t stand idly by and allow that to happen. Not to mention that Eunuch Wei was stronger than White Sky. If Lin Ming were to fight with him then it was unknown who would win in the end. Truly fighting with Eunuch Wei would be an unwise idea that would only earn him another formidable enemy. Moreover, in the Marvel Blue Nation, there was more than one World King master.

Besides, Lin Ming didn’t know this Lord Snow to begin with so he had no obligation to risk his life for him. He also didn’t intend to interfere in the struggle for the throne.

Lin Ming only wanted the Celestial Tyrant Manual and now he had mostly achieved his goal.

Lin Ming glanced over at Blood Moon. Blood Moon bowed, intending to resolve the conflict like this.

The truth was that they had already taken the advantage. The maids and eunuchs that Naye had raised had mostly died and Eunuch Sun had been killed by Lin Ming. Even the carefully constructed Arid Peace Palace that symbolized the will of the

Empress had been destroyed.

To Naye, the peak Holy Lord Eunuch Sun had been her absolute right hand. But now that he was cut down by Lin Ming, she could only swallow this insult.

This was the suppression brought by strength.

Blood Moon was filled with curiosity towards Lin Ming. She wanted to know just how Lin Ming had learned the Celestial Tyrant Manual, but now was not a good time to ask.

She gently smiled and said to Eunuch Wei, “Since Eunuch Wei has appeared then let us resolve matters like this. I only hope that in the future when I am in Full Moon Hall, there will not be another summons from the Empress where her only goal is to reprimand me!”

Blood Moon’s voice carried with it a slight warning. In truth, she relied on Lin Ming to gain the upper hand.

Even so, Blood Moon still had the capital to remain standing tall. This was because her wounds would heal in another month or two and when her strength was restored to its peak state, she wouldn’t be any weaker than White Sky.

If so, then she naturally had the ability to establish herself in the entire Marvel Blue Imperial Palace.

After being warned by an imperial concubine, Naye’s eyes flashed with a cold light. But, she eventually flung her sleeves backwards and calmly told the remaining eunuchs, “Begin a trip to Soul Nourishing Temple!”

Now that Arid Peace Palace was no more it was naturally impossible for her to rest here. As for Soul Nourishing Temple, it was the palace of the Emperor and only the Empress had the right to enter and pass the night there. The imperial concubines did not have the ability to do so.

Like this, the sudden storm had passed. Although there would be

some criticisms due to the destruction of Arid Peace Palace, these opinions would slowly be suppressed.

Lin Ming wouldn't care about any of this. His only regret today was that he wasn't able to leave some mark behind on White Sky. Even so, forcing him to burn a bit of his blood essence could be considered sufficient interest.

Lin Ming planned to return to Full Moon Hall with Blood Moon. But at this time, he was stopped by someone.

“This little brother, please stay a moment.”

Lin Ming paused and turned to see Eunuch Wei smiling at him. A eunuch originally grew old strangely, especially when they had a senile-looking appearance. When they smiled, it normally appeared unappealing, and sometimes extremely repugnant.

However, when this Eunuch Wei smiled, it appeared somewhat gentle and kind.

“I never imagined that Lord Snow would have such hidden depths that he could actually request the help of such a peak character like this little brother.”

Eunuch Wei said, his eyes looking up and down Lin Ming. Although he hadn't seen the entire fight, he could guess the approximate situation. He was extremely curious as to what Lin Ming's status was. If this Lin Ming came from a large influence, then that influence was likely not something that a Great World King influence like the Marvel Blue Nation could compare with.

The difference was too great!

Lin Ming lightly smiled, “Eunuch Wei has misunderstood. I am not Lord Snow's helper and I also do not help him. It is only that I have some old friendship with Imperial Concubine Moon so I have come to the palace to pay a visit to her.”

Lin Ming smoothly said. His words caused Eunuch Wei to look at Imperial Concubine Moon with a different light in his eyes.

Eunuch Wei was an intelligent person who was also well-informed; he naturally knew the purpose of Imperial Concubine Moon coming to the palace.

He never would have thought that Imperial Concubine Moon knew such a person!

Like this, he had to completely reconsider the imperial struggle between Lord Shen and Lord Snow. He would even need to rely more on Eunuch Liang who was on good terms with Imperial Concubine Moon.

All of this was on the premise that Eunuch Wei thought Lin Ming might have come from a peak Empyrean influence.

A peak Empyrean influence could command the wind and rain within the entire inner Asura Road. To such an influence, Eunuch Wei was nothing more than an ant. If he could form relations with an Empyrean influence then that would mean many benefits in the future!

However, Eunuch Wei could see that Lin Ming had no intention of revealing his background so he could only put the plan of climbing relations with Lin Ming behind. He smiled and said “Little brother, if you are interested then you can come to the Marvel Blue Nation as a guest. My Marvel Blue Nation will certainly welcome you as an honored guest!”

Eunuch Wei spoke these words in front of everyone.

And at this time, Empress Naye had yet to leave. Whether it was Arid Peace Palace of Full Moon Hall, the many eunuchs and maids were able to clearly hear him.

In the eyes of these young eunuchs and maids, Eunuch Wei was, aside from the old Emperor who was nearing the end of his lifespan, one of the three World King powerhouses of the Marvel Blue Nation. Moreover, even amongst ordinary World Kings, Eunuch Wei’s strength was still considered in the upper echelons.

He had already cultivated the Sunflower Melody to an unbelievable boundary.

Within the imperial palace, Eunuch Wei was the absolute chief eunuch in charge of all internal affairs. Not only did the Empress and numerous princes need to pay him due respect, but if he was to clearly state his support for Prince Shen or Grandprince Snow, then the matter of ascension would already be half-settled.

Unfortunately, no one was able to successfully curry favor with Eunuch Wei. Even though Lord Shen and Lord Snow and sent him gifts again and again, these gifts had been fully returned by him.

But now, this Eunuch Wei who held one of the top three positions of power and authority within the Marvel Blue Nation was actually taking the initiative to show goodwill towards Lin Ming. This caused the young eunuchs and maids to be startled. As they looked at Lin Ming once more, they felt that he was an increasingly unfathomable youth.

In fact, these young eunuchs and maids had a limited cultivation boundary so it was hard for them to understand just what Lin Ming's strength and talented represented. It was Eunuch Wei's flattering words towards him that left the greatest impact on them!

As for Empress Naye, as she sat in her palanquin she also froze as she heard Eunuch Wei's words. Her complexion turned grim.

Finally, she settled herself in her seat and shouted to the eunuch beside her. "Begin the trip to Soul Nourishing Temple –"

Like this, the people of Arid Peace Palace vanished around a corner.

As for the eunuchs and maids of Full Moon Hall, all of them returned, overflowing with joy and thankfulness. The eunuchs that carried the palanquin were especially zealous in their actions, each step they took floating up as if they were going to fly.

They all felt as if they had overcome and won a great war.

Chapter 1588 – Cultivation Method In Hand

To the young eunuchs and maids of Full Moon Hall, whether it was the ruler of six palaces – the Empress, or the manager of internal affairs – Great Chief Eunuch Wei, both were existences that they feared to the point of death. With just a single word from either one of them, any of the young eunuchs and maids would be exterminated. But today, the Empress had lost so many eunuchs and maids and even had her Arid Peace Palace destroyed, yet she was only able to swallow this insult. And when Eunuch Wei came, not only did he not charge Lin Ming with the crime of destroying Arid Peace Palace, but he instead remained respectful towards Lin Ming, even welcoming him as an honored guest to the Marvel Blue Nation.

For these two characters to have such a response, the young eunuchs and maids felt this was unbelievable and at the same time proud and ecstatic!

Although the Empress and Eunuch Wei were in fact only giving in to Lin Ming and Lin Ming had no connection to these young eunuchs and maids, he was still staying at Full Moon Hall. When the Empress admitted defeat this time, it was her admitting defeat to the entirety of Full Moon Hall. This made them feel like a warm sunlight was shining on their faces, making them euphoric and carefree!

As for Lin Ming's image, he became an immeasurably deep figure in the hearts of the young eunuchs and maids. And as for the young maid who had brought Lin Ming his daily washing water, she constantly glanced at him within the palanquin, filled with curiosity.

In her eyes, Lin Ming was undoubtedly the hero of Full Moon Hall. Although his battle with a World King had been extremely short it had still left a deep impression on her mind. She had originally looked at Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian with disdain for

their daily lovemaking, but now she actually envied Xiao Moxian. However, Xiao Moxian's strength left her in fear and awe at the same time.

For a young woman to have such strength was incredible.

The group of people returned to Full Moon Hall in high spirits. Upon returning to Full Moon Hall, Blood Moon sent out rewards. Each of the accompanying eunuchs and maids was rewarded with 1000 origin energy runes, leaving them even more overjoyed. They all happily shouted out, "Praise Imperial Concubine Moon!"

Blood Moon faintly smiled. She waved her hand, "You may all leave."

The eunuchs and maids bowed and withdrew, leaving behind only Lin Ming, Xiao Moxian, and Blood Moon in the room.

"Lin Ming, I must thank you for today's matters!" Blood Moon said, personally pouring a cup of fog rain tea for Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian. This was the most valuable tea in Full Moon Hall and it had a wonderfully refreshing effect.

Lin Ming received the teacup and said, "There is no need to be so serious. Today's matters also happened because of me. If it weren't for a man living in Full Moon Hall then the Empress wouldn't have been able to easily incriminate Imperial Concubine Moon."

Blood Moon couldn't help but smile. "Lin Ming, there is no need for you to be modest. You and I both know that the Empress was deliberately finding faults, and even if you weren't there she still would have found some other method to deal with me. If it weren't for you, I have no idea how today's matters would have ended. If I'm lucky, my wounds should heal after another short period of time. At that time, there will be no need for me to fear them. Even if White Sky were to return there would be nothing he could do to me."

Upon mentioning White Sky, Lin Ming coldly sneered, "If White

Sky were to return, there is no need for Imperial Concubine Moon to do anything; I still haven't settled my account with him. As for Imperial Concubine Moon, what wounds have you received that are so serious that you still haven't fully healed after such a long time?"

Blood Moon sighed, "It is unliving poison... it is a rare poison that can kill a Holy Lord and affect a World King! If it weren't for my subordinate betraying me then I would never have been injured by such a poison. As for the reason it's affected me for so long, it's because I have to use my true essence to suppress it thus I'm unable to fight it with everything I have."

"Oh? Unliving poison?" Lin Ming had inherited the memories of three alchemists so he certainly knew about this type of poison.

In this world, poisons of the mortal world were naturally ineffective towards martial artists. But, there were some poisons that could kill high level martial artists!

And these poisons all came from alchemists. Moreover, the materials needed to refine them were all extremely precious heavenly materials.

Alchemists could refine pills that could increase one's cultivation. There were some transcendent divine pills that World Kings would brutally struggle for, because these transcendent divine pills were far too valuable to a World King.

But with every positive came a negative. If there were pills that had positive effects on World Kings then there were naturally poisons with a negative effect on World Kings.

There were even some cultivation enhancing pills with properties that were too tyrannical, that if taken improperly or by someone with an insufficient cultivation, could cause one's body to explode and die.

Thus, it wasn't uncommon to see poisons that could kill high

level martial artists!

Unliving poison was one variation of these poisons. This poison was based upon the bile of an ancient desolate flood dragon combined with an unliving snake's venom as well as a variety of rare and precious materials.

Lin Ming thought for a moment. Then, he said, "Although unliving poison is fierce, its properties, according to what I know, shouldn't be able to affect a World King to such a degree..."

"That's right, but this unliving poison was also supported by the divine runic arts from a peak sixth grade divine runic master, so its toxicity far surpasses that of an ordinary version. I've already spent over half a year driving out the poison."

"Divine runic arts!"

Lin Ming traced his chin. He faintly smiled and said, "If it really is the divine runic arts then there will definitely be traces of the Asura Laws left in the poison. And, these traces are something I might be able to unravel. Although I cannot completely undo the poison, I can make the poison lose the support of the Asura Heavenly Dao so it is easier to drive out."

As Lin Ming spoke, Blood Moon's heart moved. She immediately recalled Lin Ming's sensational divine runic arts skill. Not only had he used a single spear strike to break through Empress Naye's Life Seizing Jade Talisman, but he had even broken through Naye's protective divine runic symbols. This was not something that an ordinary person could hope to achieve.

There were even many sixth grade divine runic masters that wouldn't be able to accomplish his!

This part alone made Blood Moon feel that this was all too unbelievable. She didn't know how at such a young age, Lin Ming had been able to find the weakness of a sixth grade Life Seizing Jade Talisman and two protective divine runic symbols. Even if

Lin Ming specialized in countering these two types of divine runic symbols he still shouldn't have been able to easily counter the Asura Heavenly Dao traces in the blink of an eye.

There were too many riddles about Lin Ming that Blood Moon couldn't figure out. Even being a True Divinity descendant wasn't adequate to explain Lin Ming.

To be less than 60 years of age and be able to fight a World King, that was incredible!

"Lin Ming... are you really... less than 60 years of age?" Although she felt that this question was impolite, Blood Moon couldn't help but ask.

Lin Ming faintly smiled. He ambiguously said, "I am indeed not that old. The reason I was able to reach my current level is because of some chances. My luck has been quite good."

Although Lin Ming had casually said all of this, Blood Moon found this hard to believe. In the 33 Heavens, there were countless individuals that had good luck. However, even the descendant of a True Divinity Holy Land wouldn't have luck that could reach a tenth of Lin Ming's!

Although Lin Ming hadn't stated his exact age, Blood Moon could faintly confirm that Lin Ming's skeletal age was indeed less than 60 years!

Something suddenly flashed through Blood Moon's mind. She traced her spatial ring, pausing for several breaths of time. Then, she took out a blood red jade slip.

This jade slip was the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace section of the Celestial Tyrant Manual.

"Lin Ming, I owe you a great favor from today. I originally thought that the half-step World King Empress, her eunuchs and maids, including even Eunuch Sun, wouldn't have the ability to stop me. But, I never imagined that the Empress would invite

White Sky from Heaven's Net and nearly cause me to suffer an incalculable loss. If it wasn't for your assistance today than I might not have escaped Arid Peace Palace alive. Or, at least without paying a grievously deep price.

"I will always remember this graciousness. I know that you need this so I will lend it to you. You can use it for as long as you want."

As Blood Moon spoke she placed the red jade slip on the table and pushed it towards Lin Ming. Although Blood Moon had been poisoned, she still had life-saving methods. These were her final all-out trump cards and if she were to use them she would have been able to escape White Sky. But, she would need to burn her blood essence to do so and suffer severe damage to her origin energy.

To Blood Moon who had yet to avenge her great hatred, this was a matter she could absolutely not accept. Thus, even if she gave the Celestial Tyrant Manual to Lin Ming, it was well worth it.

Lin Ming's eyes brightened. "The Celestial Tyrant Manual!" The reason he sought out Blood Moon was because of this jade slip and now he had finally obtained it!

Blood Moon said, "I could have lent you this earlier but I originally thought that even if you obtained the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace section of the Celestial Tyrant Manual, you still wouldn't be able to cultivate it and would only be wasting your time in vain. This is the reason I didn't consider your request too much. But, I never expected that you would have actually opened the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace and achieved a legendary, heaven-defying realm. I really have no idea how you did it."

Blood Moon was filled with curiosity towards what Lin Ming had experienced in his life but she didn't ask him about it. This was likely something that involved Lin Ming's lucky chance and was his deepest secret.

Lin Ming didn't turn down the offer. He took the Celestial Tyrant

Manual in his hands and swept through it with his sense. The method to cultivate the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace was truly recorded within here!

Lin Ming had trained in the body transformation technique for many years, and as time passed, he thought more and more that the Celestial Tyrant Manual was an extremely unusual cultivation method.

From the start, Lin Ming thought that the Celestial Tyrant Manual was a transcendent divine might. However, upon further thinking about it, perhaps it wasn't as simple as it seemed.

The body transformation technique was once extremely popular within the Divine Realm and there were countless inheritances of it left behind. After 3.6 billion years, nearly everything had vanished, but there were still body transformation cultivation methods that were left behind like the Chaotic Virtues Combat Meridians. However, none of these cultivation methods were as overbearing and tyrannical as the Celestial Tyrant Manual.

Many body transformation cultivation methods were only suitable for the Heavenly Dao of 3.6 billion years ago. If one practiced them now it would be impossible to cultivate the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace.

But, the Celestial Tyrant Manual's cultivation method actually involved all sorts of precious pills, and these pills – even in a situation where the body transformation Laws were forbidden – still had a considerable effect. This was extraordinary.

Thus, Lin Ming paid more and more attention to the Celestial Tyrant Manual. The Hundred Layered Waves was an arcane skill that increased one's bodily strength by multiple times. This meant that in the future, when Lin Ming became stronger, the might of this skill would become increasingly terrifying.

Lin Ming received the Celestial Tyrant Manual and said to Blood Moon, "Thank you, Imperial Concubine Moon. I really did need

this jade slip. In truth, there were also some questions I've been wanting to ask you but I felt that it was too rude... so I haven't found a way to ask them yet..."

Blood Moon waved her hands, "Sir Lin, please don't be so polite. Ask anything you please."

Lin Ming faintly smiled. "What I wanted to know is... how did you obtain the Celestial Tyrant Manual?"

Chapter 1589 – Blood Moon’s Identity

Lin Ming had long felt it was strange. A cultivation method manual on the level of the Celestial Tyrant Manual was unique; only a single copy existed. If one wanted to copy it then they would need to practice the Celestial Tyrant Manual to perfection like the creator themselves had.

In this sort of situation, the creator would need to spend many years and a great deal of energy to make a copy.

There were extremely few people able to achieve this point, especially since the Celestial Tyrant Manual was so difficult to cultivate.

If there really was someone capable of making a copy of the Celestial Tyrant Manual then that was likely from some time before 3.6 billion years ago.

For this cultivation method to be found within the Divine Realm as well as by Blood Moon in the Asura Road, and for the two versions to supplement each other, that was far too great a coincidence.

Although Lin Ming had his suspicions, he had only just met Blood Moon and didn’t know her at all. Anything that involved the Celestial Tyrant Manual likely involved some secret of hers, thus she wouldn’t reveal that to others. It was only now that Lin Ming was slightly closer to Blood Moon that he asked her.

However, Lin Ming didn’t think that after he asked this question, Blood Moon would actually seem embarrassed, not too willing to reply.

“Sir Lin... this Celestial Tyrant Manual is something I obtained in a mystic realm and as for the details, they actually concern some of my secrets. Once I speak of them they might become a threat to my personal safety so I cannot tell you... my apologies!”

Blood Moon carefully weighed her words. Even though Lin Ming had helped her she still had to conceal the origins of her cultivation method manual; she couldn't help but feel sorry from her heart.

But Lin Ming was actually quite relaxed about this. He casually said, "If this matter involves your safety then there is no need for you to tell me anything. I am not offended at all."

As Lin Ming said this, a glimmer of remorse shined within Blood Moon's eyes. She said, "This is really difficult to say, but Sir Lin, the truth is that I would like to ask you about the origin of the Celestial Tyrant Manual in your hands. If I'm not wrong, at the time Sir Lin was facing White Sky, when you faced the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace, you used a secret technique from the Celestial Tyrant Manual to increase your strength by several times?"

Lin Ming was a bit surprised that Blood Moon recognized the Celestial Tyrant Manual he used. Although it seemed that Blood Moon also practiced the Celestial Tyrant Manual, the Celestial Tyrant Manual in her hands only concerned the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace and she hadn't even opened the complete Eight Inner Hidden Gates, so how had she done it?

Lin Ming had some faint ideas in his mind. Could it be that...?

He looked deeply at Blood Moon, a brilliant light shining in his eyes.

This brief hesitation caused Blood Moon to think that Lin Ming wasn't willing to reply. She sighed and said, "I know that my question is somewhat excessive, but it's just that the origin of the Eight Inner Hidden Gates section of the Celestial Tyrant Manual in your hands is extremely important to me and involves someone that I have been continuously searching for all this time. To me, that person is as important as my own life. I ask that Sir Lin please tell me. If Sir Lin wishes to know about the Celestial Tyrant Manual in my hands, then I can also explain, but I hope that Sir

Lin can take an oath on your heart of martial arts to never reveal it...”

As Blood Moon spoke to her, Lin Ming looked at her, his eyes filled with disbelief.

Could the person Blood Moon was searching for be...

In this world, was there really such a wonderful coincidence?

Seeing Lin Ming in a daze, Blood Moon was a bit worried. The reason she was willing to concede this time was to ask Lin Ming about this matter. But if Lin Ming didn't want to say anything to her then there was nothing she could do.

“Sir Lin, I will tell you about the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace section of the Celestial Tyrant Manual in my hands. I only hope that you do not leak it to others, otherwise it will create a threat to my life...”

Just as Blood Moon was about to reveal some of her secrets, Lin Ming took a deep breath. With a strange expression he said, “Could... the person you be looking for have the surname Mo...?”

As Lin Ming spoke, Blood Moon jumped up as if she had been shocked, her entire body suddenly freezing. She looked at Lin Ming with eyes filled with disbelief. Then, slowly, the shock in her eyes slowly turned to joy and euphoria!

Her fingers trembled. However, she was aware of what was about to happen, and fear surged in her heart. She was afraid that what she was about to learn was bad news.

Seeing Blood Moon's response, Lin Ming was able to confirm his own speculations. He sighed. He never thought that he would find the person Miss Mo had requested him to find.

Lin Ming understood that the 'moon' word from the codename Blood Moon actually came from her real name – Mo Brightmoon.

And Mo Brightmoon was Mo Eversnow's younger sister who had

been lost for many years. In the past, because Tian Mingzi was hunting them down, Mo Eversnow had offered her soul to the Magic Cube in order to start a storm that killed 10,000 masters of the Divine Realm as well as send her little sister away from the Snowfall Realm. From that day on, Mo Brightmoon's whereabouts had been unknown.

Lin Ming never imagined that Mo Brightmoon, in order to take revenge, would enter the Asura Road to temper herself and even join Heaven's Net!

On the edge of life and death, she sharpened her strength so that she would one day have the power to take revenge.

At the same time, she was also searching for news of her older sister.

As for the word 'blood' from Blood Moon, it expressed her blood hatred that was as deep as the sea, as well as her domain, the Endlessly Long Night which Mo Brightmoon used. This domain had a phenomenon where a blood moon would hang high in the sky!

For Lin Ming and Blood Moon to meet here today was a tremendous coincidence as well as reasonable truth. This was because Blood Moon had to enter the Asura Road due to Tian Mingzi's existence in the Divine Realm, just like Lin Ming had entered the Asura Road because of the Good Fortune Saint Son. And after entering the Asura Road, he went searching for clues related to the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace, and this led him to the Celestial Tyrant Manual and Blood Moon.

These similar choices led to today's coincidence. It was the existence of the Celestial Tyrant Manual that led the two of them to meet each other.

However, in Lin Ming's opinion, it was far too difficult for Blood Moon to take revenge. If Tian Mingzi hadn't lost his hand at the Sky Spill Planet then he might have already entered the half-step

Empyrean realm.

As for Mo Brightmoon, after passing through many tribulations and working herself to the bone for all these years, she was only at the early World King realm.

The difference between these two boundaries could be overcome by a peerless genius that ranked in the top several talents of their race. But to geniuses whose level of talent was similar to an Empyrean descendant's, this difference could take tens of thousands or even hundreds of thousands of years to bridge, and even that would be extremely difficult.

And for those with less talent, they would never be able to overcome this boundary.

Tian Mingzi's talent was at the peak Empyrean descendant level. It would be far too difficult for Mo Brightmoon to surpass him!

Seeing Mo Brightmoon waver as if she were caught in a dream, Lin Ming said, "Miss Mo is safe. Because of some reasons, she was unable to come with me, but she is currently training with an Empyrean master. If you wish to see her then after my journey through the Asura Road I can lead you to her. Before this, I had also heard Miss Mo speak about you. Are you the young Saintess of the Verdant Feather Holy Lands, Mo Brightmoon?"

As Lin Ming said this, Mo Brightmoon's entire body shivered. She had to grab onto the table to steady herself.

She had searched for 50,000 years, and now she had finally obtained news about her older sister!

"She's safe... she's safe..."

Mo Brightmoon mumbled, repeating Lin Ming's words like a mantra. Tears fell down from her eyes, moistening her veil.

Lin Ming didn't speak. He sat silently on the side. He knew that today's news was extremely impactful to Mo Brightmoon and she would need some time to regain her composure.

After a quarter hour, Mo Brightmoon returned from the great sadness and happiness of hearing news about her family. As she looked towards Lin Ming, her eyes were filled with a deep sense of gratitude.

“Excuse me, but may I ask what Sir Lin and my older sister’s relationship is...” Mo Brightmoon said. As she looked at Lin Ming, her vision towards him was completely different from before. To Mo Brightmoon, finding out clues about her older sister was more important than any favor.

“To me, Miss Mo is both a master and a friend. She helped me walk through the road of martial arts when I first started, and that period of time was the most difficult for me. She taught me many things, and although Miss Mo and I could be called master and apprentice, we are also partners that have fought for life and death together. She has saved my life several times, and I have also saved her. Our relationship could be said to have reached a degree where there is nothing we cannot say to each other and nothing we cannot share with each other. We trust each other as much as we trust ourselves. Normally, I call Miss Mo my senior-apprentice sister, thus in terms of relations, I am her junior-apprentice brother.”

As Lin Ming said these words, Mo Brightmoon mostly believed him. Of course, this was only Lin Ming’s one-sided statement and that wasn’t enough to win over Mo Brightmoon’s complete trust.

Thus, Lin Ming continued to speak. He spoke about Mo Eversnow bringing him to Carefree Island and Immemorial Imperial City. He spoke about obtaining the Ten Severing Dao Fruit Tree and many other treasures. He spoke about meeting Mo Eversnow’s aunty, Mo Riverbliss. He spoke about the chess piece that the Verdant Feather Holy Lands had hidden in Carefree Island. He spoke about all of this in great detail.

After hearing this, Mo Brightmoon completely believed Lin Ming. If Lin Ming didn’t have a completely trustworthy

relationship with Mo Eversnow then there was no way she would lead Lin Ming to Carefree Island and entrust him with everything. This was the same as placing all hopes of reviving the Verdant Feather Holy Lands onto Lin Ming.

And in Mo Brightmoon's opinion, Lin Ming was far too amazing. He had the strength and ability to easily accomplish this!

"I never thought that my older sister would be able to find an unrivalled talent like you. This is my older sister's luck as well as the luck of the Verdant Feather Holy Lands. You have yet to reach 60 years of age and yet your cultivation is at the early Divine Lord realm and you can even fight an ordinary World King. Your achievements in the divine runic arts are also unbelievable. Moreover, you even cultivated the complete Eight Inner Hidden Gates and broke into the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace! I'm really finding it hard to imagine just how you accomplished all of this in less than 60 years of training... no matter how talented you are and how many lucky chances you find, your diligence and hard work must be incomparable!"

In Mo Brightmoon's ear, Lin Ming could be called a hero of the world! Even within a great calamity, an unrivalled talent like Lin Ming might not appear. He was a person that could carry a great calamity on his shoulders. For instance, Empyrean Divine Seal from 3.6 billion years ago might not be any better than Lin Ming.

Of course, all of this was on the premise that Lin Ming could maintain his current level of talent as well as maintain his forwards momentum.

"Big Sister is really fortunate to have your help. With you, rebuilding the Verdant Feather Holy Lands won't be too difficult! Even taking revenge on Tian Mingzi will only be a matter of time!" Speaking of Tian Mingzi, Mo Brightmoon found it hard to remain calm. She really hated Tian Mingzi to the point of gnashing her teeth at the thought of him! Tian Mingzi also came from the Verdant Feather Holy Lands but had betrayed them, overthrowing

them and even slaughtering the Mo Family!

This hatred was absolutely irreconcilable!

“That scumbag Tian Mingzi is probably at the peak Great World King realm now. The grudge that my Verdant Feather Holy Lands holds towards him must be considered further; we cannot be impatient about this.

As Mo Brightmoon spoke, a strange color came over Lin Ming’s face. He hesitated for a moment before saying. “Ah... about your enmity against Tian Mingzi, you might not need to worry about that anymore...”

Chapter 1590 – Hard to Believe

“Mm? What did you say?” Mo Brightmoon froze for a moment. She didn’t understand what Lin Ming meant. “You might not need to worry about that anymore?”

As Mo Brightmoon spoke, she looked at Lin Ming, puzzled. According to Lin Ming, he and Mo Eversnow were partners that trusted each other with their lives. If Mo Eversnow had an enmity she had to avenge, Lin Ming wouldn’t sit by and do nothing.

Mo Brightmoon looked at Lin Ming, waiting for his explanation.

Lin Ming thought about his words for a moment. Although he felt this was ridiculous to say, Mo Brightmoon should still believe him. But it might take her some time to accept it...

He paused for a while to give Mo Brightmoon enough time to prepare her mind. Then, he slowly said, “Well... the truth is that Tian Mingzi has already died.”

“W-what!?”

Mo Brightmoon shot up, even nearly knocking over the pot of fog rain tea.

“You said... that Tian Mingzi has died!?”

Mo Brightmoon stared at Lin Ming, great waves roiling in her heart!

For all these years, Tian Mingzi was a great mountain that constantly pressed on her. Her joining an assassin organization was all in order to temper herself. Only by passing through endless slaughters and walking upon the thin edge of death would she be able to easily break through to the next boundary.

Mo Brightmoon was well aware that her talent was far inferior to Tian Mingzi’s. Not just that but Tian Mingzi was far older than she was. For her to surpass Tian Mingzi would be more difficult than

ascending to heaven!

Thus, she had to put forth even greater effort!

And because of Tian Mingzi's existence, Mo Brightmoon had to conceal her identity and never mention anything about her life. Even Eunuch Liang only knew that her nickname was Blood Moon; no one knew her true name.

Hiding her status in an assassin organization like Heaven's Net was even easier.

However, this blood enemy that had pressured so much it left her gasping for breath, her greatest enemy that prevented her from rebuilding the Verdant Feather Holy Lands, her enemy, an existence she never knew when she would be able to contend with, she had been informed by Lin Ming that he had died!

This caused Mo Brightmoon's mind to turn into chaos. She found it hard to respond.

What sort of person was Tian Mingzi? 50,000 years ago he broke through to the World King realm. Moreover, with his talent, he was likely a Great World King now, or even a peak Great World King, someone touching upon the half-step Empyrean realm.

Such people rarely perished within mystic realms. And with Tian Mingzi's sinister and crafty tactics, wanting him to randomly perish would simply be a daydream. So, how did he die?

Was he killed by someone? Who could kill a peak Great World King?

Mo Brightmoon's first reaction was disbelief. But, she felt that Lin Ming was someone who didn't normally boast, but when he did it would surprise others. This sort of person would normally not lie and there was also no benefit for Lin Ming to do so.

"Is... it this thanks to the help of your master?" Mo Brightmoon suddenly realized. If Lin Ming had the help of a peak Empyrean powerhouse then he really could kill Tian Mingzi!

Even if Tian Mingzi was a Great World King who ruled over his own world and even established his own Great World King influence, a peak Empyrean could still kill him and suppress everything that followed with their strength.

If her big sister Mo Eversnow wasn't able to wait and truly hated Tian Mingzi to the bone, then asking Lin Ming's master for help was a high possibility.

"Master..." An awkward expression colored Lin Ming's face. He drank some more fog rain tea and said, "I have had several masters before, but currently, most of them cannot fight me... as for that peak Empyrean master, the truth is that he doesn't exist..."

Lin Ming had indeed apprenticed himself to several masters in the past. There was Divine Phoenix Island's Mu Yuhuang, the Ancient Phoenix Clan's Fairy Feng, Huo Violentstone, and many others. These people were no longer Lin Ming's match.

However, as Lin Ming said this, Mo Brightmoon's face twisted like the tiny runes in a divine runic symbol. She looked at Lin Ming like he was some sort of freak.

Mo Brightmoon didn't respond for a long time. "You... you don't have a master? Did you cultivate to your present level by yourself?"

"Mostly, yes." Lin Ming spread his hands. "I created an Empyrean master in order to provide some protection for myself. My strength is a little limited right now so I feared that there would be some people with dark intentions towards the secrets on my body. With the deterrence of a peak Empyrean master, more people will hesitate before doing anything."

"If I really had to say that I had an Empyrean level master, the truth is that I do; that is Empyrean Primordius. But he has been missing for many years and he has likely perished. As for others, there is also Empyrean Divine Dream who gave me directions once, although she didn't direct me too much."

Lin Ming's words had already left Mo Brightmoon speechless.

If Lin Ming didn't have a true peak Empyrean master, then how had he managed to cultivate to such an abnormal degree!?

"Then... if you don't have a master... Tian Mingzi... how did he die?"

Mo Brightmoon said with some difficulty as she slowly recovered from accepting the fact that there could be a monstrous existence like Lin Ming.

Lin Ming stiffened for a moment. He looked at Mo Brightmoon. Even though he knew she would find this hard to believe, that anyone would find this hard to believe, he still said, "The truth is that... Tian Mingzi was killed by me..."

With this, Mo Brightmoon nearly spat out a mouthful of blood.

"W-what did you say!?"

Was there anything more absurd than this? Lin Ming was a youth with less than 60 years of cultivation and yet he had killed a peak Great World King!!

Even though Mo Brightmoon believed that Lin Ming wasn't someone who liked to boast, she still felt this was far too unbelievable!

Luckily, Lin Ming continued to explain, "I didn't strike down Tian Mingzi all by myself. It was because Tian Mingzi was injured beforehand. To be more exact, I lured him into an absolute death zone and used the killing array within to severely wound him and then kill him at his weakest point."

Although Lin Ming explained the situation, Mo Brightmoon was still shocked in a daze. Luring him into an absolute danger zone to kill him?

Lin Ming had said this all lightly, but how could it be so easy? This sort of danger zone was likely deadly to Lin Ming too,

moreover, Mo Brightmoon understood what Tian Mingzi's methods were like. He was a sinister and deceitful figure, so how could he be easy to trick? And how could he be so easily killed by others?

“What... what danger zone was it?” Mo Brightmoon felt as if she had used up her lifetime supply of astonishment. She didn't know how to face this monster in front of her.

“God Burying Ridge.”

“God Burying Ridge...” Mo Brightmoon sucked in a breath of cold air. She had definitely heard of this danger zone before.

That was a place where it was said even Great World Kings could perish and only Emphyreans could freely enter and leave. Lin Ming had actually used the terrain of the danger zones within God Burying Ridge to kill Tian Mingzi. If he did so then he must have chosen the most dangerous of places within God Burying Ridge, but how could Lin Ming himself leave those places alive?

“If there was a danger zone that could even severely wound Tian Mingzi, then how did you live?” Mo Brightmoon asked, unable to understand what happened.

“That... is a long story. The main reason is that I perfectly passing a trial in the past and obtained some certain information on God Burying Ridge, and when I was forced into Tragic Death Valley by Tian Mingzi, that allowed me to comprehend some things, giving me an understanding of God Burying Ridge's killing arrays.”

“You... you entered... Tragic Death Valley?” Mo Brightmoon's jaw nearly fell down. Disbelief colored her face. “You said that you entered Tragic Death Valley? The Tragic Death Valley that no one has managed to return from for 10 billion years?”

Mo Brightmoon knew how horrifying a place Tragic Death Valley was; it was the core of God Burying Ridge. Although Emphyreans

could freely enter and leave God Burying Ridge, if they were to enter Tragic Death Valley, they still wouldn't be able to return no matter what they tried.

There were some rumors that Empyrean Divine Mist might have entered Tragic Death Valley and was unable to leave. Although these were only legends, it was still enough to demonstrate how terrifying Tragic Death Valley was.

“Uh... there should only be one Tragic Death Valley...” Lin Ming rubbed his nose. Even he felt this was a bit too outrageous. The average person would find this really too hard to accept.

“...”

Mo Brightmoon had long been at a loss for words. When Lin Ming said he had entered Tragic Death Valley and then returned, Mo Brightmoon wasn't shocked at all. Rather, after learning so many surprising new things, she had been left numb.

“You said... you were forced into Tragic Death Valley by Tian Mingzi and then after you left you lured him into a danger zone and kill him instead...?”

Mo Brightmoon mumbled, summarizing what had happened.

“Yes.” Lin Ming nodded.

“Tian Mingzi is a cunning and sinister person, so how could he have been tricked by you?” Mo Brightmoon asked.

Lin Ming said, “He thought that he could kill me. Moreover, he had no choice but to kill me. So even though he knew that he was heading into a danger zone, he had no choice but to continue hunting me down. The situation at the time was extremely special...”

Concerning the matter about being chased down by Tian Mingzi, Lin Ming didn't conceal anything from Mo Brightmoon. He explained to her the entire process, including what the circumstances were that Tian Mingzi chased after him as well as

his escape route being blocked so he had no choice but to try and kill him.

Lin Ming even explained about Imperial Prince Naqi, half-step Empyrean Ash Murder, and World King powerhouse Mister Zhou, all of those people who had tried to kill him and then ended up dying instead.

As Mo Brightmoon listened to this, her lips twitched. She lifted her teacup and took a big sip as she regained her composure, slowly digesting everything Lin Ming said.

According to what Lin Ming said, when he was still at the Divine Transformation realm he had been chased down by a number of World Kings.

Then, Lin Ming was forced into Tragic Death Valley where he broke through to the Divine Lord realm. After he left, he killed several half-step World Kings, a World King, and a half-step Empyrean. During this time, Lin Ming had used a killing array to play around with all of these people, using all sorts of tricks and schemes to slowly kill them off. During this process, his strength, will, judgment, mentality, foresight, his ability to adapt, everything was indispensable!

After that, Lin Ming was nearly defeated by Tian Mingzi. Even though Tian Mingzi had fought with every trick up his sleeves, forcing Lin Ming into dead end after dead end, Lin Ming still broke through his boundaries and opened the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace.

Finally, he killed Tian Mingzi!

Like this, everything that tried to kill him had ended up being killed by him.

After thinking about all of the events that happened, Mo Brightmoon calmed down. Her gaze was steady as she looked at Lin Ming, and she thought to herself, “Big Sister, Big Sister... just what

kind of monster have you found?”

As Mo Brightmoon spoke, she slowly lifted her veil...

Chapter 1591 - The Treasure of Heaven's Net

Now that Tian Mingzi was dead there was no reason for Mo Brightmoon to conceal herself. Moreover, since Lin Ming was the person her older sister had chosen, he was worthy of her complete trust.

Taking off her veil, Mo Brightmoon revealed her gorgeous appearance.

She looked like a young woman, dressed in the tight-fitting corset of the Marvel Blue Nation. This tight corset was short and alluring, serving to perfectly contrast a woman's curves. Mo Brightmoon wore a pomegranate-colored skirt, the deep red as bright as flowers in full bloom. Gauze was draped over her shoulder, giving her an aura of grace.

Mo Brightmoon loved to dance. When she danced wearing these red palace clothes it highlighted her slim waist and slender figure, making her seem filled with endless flavors.

"It's really been a long time... since I've taken off my veil."

Mo Brightmoon sighed. Because of Tian Mingzi she had no choice but to live carefully. She knew that Tian Mingzi was always searching for clues about the Magic Cube's whereabouts, and regardless of her sister or herself, both were objects that Tian Mingzi specifically focused on.

Thus, even within the Asura Road, Mo Brightmoon had concealed her identity and hidden behind her identity as an assassin.

"Miss Brightmoon, I remember that Miss Mo said the Celestial Tyrant Manual in her hands was only a remnant piece that included the Eight Inner Hidden Gates. Just where did the section in your hands come from?"

Lin Ming had long had this question on his mind. If the Verdant

Feather Holy Lands' Celestial Tyrant Manual was originally complete and he had the Eight Inner Hidden Gates section while Blood Moon had the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace section, then Lin Ming would have thought that Blood Moon was Mo Brightmoon from the start.

Mo Brightmoon said, "This half of the Celestial Tyrant Manual was found in the same ancient ruins as the Magic Cube. I knew that with my talent it would be incomparably difficult for me to catch up to the older Tian Mingzi, thus I searched everywhere I could for lucky chances.

"When the Verdant Feather Holy Lands was destroyed, I learned the method to enter the ancient ruins of the Magic Cube. I went in with the mindset of risking my life, and when I entered the ruins to seek lucky chances I was at the half-step World King realm and even then I nearly died. But in the end, I didn't obtain anything. My only harvest was this half of the Celestial Tyrant Manual that I couldn't cultivate.

"At the time I thought I had gone there in vain and was left disappointed, but today I rejoice my choice for going there. If it weren't for this half of the Celestial Tyrant Manual then I never would have met you and obtained news about my big sister."

Mo Brightmoon sighed inwardly. She had once journeyed the world to seek lucky chances, and in retrospect, they were soul-stirring memories. Many times, a single misstep and she would have perished.

As for the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace section of the Celestial Tyrant Manual, Mo Brightmoon truly wasn't able to practice it. She wasn't like her older sister who had made dual cultivating body and energy her goal. Instead, she mostly cultivated the essence gathering system and had only dabbled in the body transformation system, not looking into it too thoroughly.

"So it's like that." Lin Ming relaxed. "What does Miss

Brightmoon plan to do in the future? Would you like to return with me to the Divine Realm?”

“I will definitely go back. In the past when I was asking all around for mystic realms, I didn’t have many lucky chances. But, I did accidentally obtain an ancient Asura Command. With this token I was able to enter the Asura Road to adventure and temper myself as well as avoid being hunted down by Tian Mingzi. His presence was simply too terrifying. I feared that if I stayed in the Divine Realm I would eventually be found by him!”

Tian Mingzi’s character was cruel and cunning and he also had the support of the Skydark Holy Lands. If he didn’t hesitate to spend any price to find Mo Brightmoon then it wouldn’t have been strange for him to eventually find her. After all, her cultivation had been extremely low at the time and as she constantly cultivated and constantly searched for lucky chances, she would likely have exposed clues about herself.

As long as Tian Mingzi was able to locate her approximate position then no matter how well Mo Brightmoon concealed herself she still wouldn’t have been able to find the truth from Tian Mingzi’s eyes.

This point was different from Mo Riverbliss. Originally, Tian Mingzi didn’t know that the Verdant Feather Holy Lands had left behind Carefree Island as their emergency contingency. Moreover, Mo Riverbliss was old and her potential was exhausted, so she didn’t need to leave to search for lucky chances and could quietly live in seclusion. As long as she didn’t expose herself then no matter how smart Tian Mingzi was, he still wouldn’t find her.

“So Miss Brightmoon had an Asura Command!”

Before Lin Ming entered the Asura Road, Empyrean Divine Dream had told Lin Ming there were two ways to enter the Asura Road.

One way was to have an Empyrean help and forcefully reform

one of the spatial channels that had been destroyed in the great calamity 3.6 billion years ago.

The second way was to obtain an Asura Command.

Asura Commands originated from the Asura Road. Before the great calamity in the Divine Realm 3.6 billion years ago, it was possible to find many Asura Commands wandering about the Divine Realm. If one could find an Asura Command then one didn't need to form a transmission channel and could use the Asura Command to directly enter the Asura Road. Moreover, this Asura Command was one of the items needed to return to the Divine Realm.

Mo Brightmoon had an Asura Command so she could leave and enter the Asura Road as she pleased. Of course, using it required a massive amount of origin energy runes each time, an amount most martial artists couldn't afford to pay.

“Then what does Miss Mo have planned for the near future? Do you plan to stay in the Marvel Blue Nation and help Lord Snow ascend the throne?”

Mo Brightmoon nodded. “When I was being hunted down by high level figures of Heaven's Net, Lord Snow and Eunuch Liang helped me a great deal. On principle alone, I cannot leave like this. I have to return the favor. Even if I cannot help Lord Snow ascend the throne I at least can keep him from being persecuted by Lord Shen.”

“Mm...” Lin Ming thought for a moment. It was reasonable for Mo Brightmoon to do this but he didn't plan to involve himself in the imperial struggle.

Lin Ming had already accomplished his goal so he could leave the Marvel Blue Nation whenever he pleased. As for who became emperor, that wasn't related to him at all.

However, Mo Brightmoon was currently wounded so he couldn't

leave immediately. He had to stay and protect her for some time until her full World King strength was restored. Once that happened, then even the high level figures of Heaven's Net wouldn't be able to do anything to her.

Thinking of this, Lin Ming's thoughts stirred. "I'm also curious about something else. Why would those from Heaven's Net have such an unending grudge with Miss Brightmoon? And, did that missing big boss really leave behind something with Miss Brightmoon? If there is some secret involved then Miss Brightmoon need not reply. I'm only randomly asking."

Mo Brightmoon gently smiled. "There is nothing that cannot be said. Since you are someone Big Sister trusts I will naturally trust you too. The big boss of Heaven's Net is also called Heaven's Net. The name of Heaven's Net is one that reverberates like thunder in the ears of those in the world of assassins. But, there are actually few people, including myself, who know Heaven's Net is a woman!"

Listening to Mo Brightmoon's words, Lin Ming was left secretly stumbled. According to what he knew, Heaven's Net was one of the top ranked assassin organizations, and its big boss was a woman, a woman with a Great World King cultivation! She was someone who had founded an assassin organization that struck fear in the hearts of others. It was hard to imagine just what life she had experienced. Unless she had an entire book of stories it was impossible for her to arrive at this step.

Mo Brightmoon continued, "The reason I joined the Heaven's Net assassin organization in the past was because when I was adventuring through a mystic realm in the Asura Road, I happened to accidentally save the life of a severely wounded Heaven's Net, thus she and I became as close as sisters. Heaven's Net trusted few people and I was one of them.

"Heaven's Net knew that I had a deep and profound blood enmity with someone, thus before she left she gave me something. She

told me that if she didn't return, then I should leave the Heaven's Net organization and make good use of this item, find a lucky chance and then return to the Divine Realm to avenge my hatreds.

As Mo Brightmoon spoke to her, Lin Ming was startled. It seemed that he had underestimated the value of whatever it was that Heaven's Net had left behind. He originally thought that whatever it was that a Great World King left behind, no matter how precious it might be, would not be able to tempt an Empyrean. But listening to what Mo Brightmoon was saying, if this thing was able to give her the opportunity to find a lucky chance that could allow her to kill Tian Mingzi, it must be something far more extraordinary.

Lin Ming said, "Tian Mingzi was already a peak Great World King. The disparity between him and Miss Brightmoon was not small at all. If there was a lucky chance capable of overcoming this difference, then I fear even Empyreans would be tempted."

Listening to Lin Ming, Mo Brightmoon bitterly smiled and shook her head.

"How could it be so easy? The thing that Heaven's Net left behind represents a lucky chance, and one could even call it the greatest lucky chance of the entire Asura Road! But... it is something I cannot obtain. I am well aware of my own abilities. If I were to use this thing, chances are I would waste it..."

Mo Brightmoon sighed.

The truth was that Mo Brightmoon had an extremely high level of talent. Although she was inferior to the peerless genius that was Mo Eversnow, she was still able to cultivate to the World King realm and even had hopes of becoming a Great World King in the future. This was also the standard of an upper Empyrean descendant.

Most Empyrean descendants would end up as ordinary World Kings. Those that were able to become Great World Kings were

outstanding individuals amongst them.

“The great lucky chance in the Asura Road? That would be...”

Lin Ming said, surprised. He could faintly guess just what it was. If it was something that could be called the greatest lucky chance in the Asura Road as well as something that no one could obtain, then there was only one thing that matched!

“Yes, it is the qualifications to enter the final trial.”

Mo Brightmoon’s words confirmed Lin Ming’s speculations.

The young heroic elites of the 33 Heavens would enter the Asura Road, completing all sorts of dangerous missions, venturing into numerous dangerous situations filled with perils, collect complete sets of god runes, and fulfill conditions required by the Asura Road’s Heavenly Dao. All of this was to struggle for the qualifications to enter the final trial.

And, the Asura Road’s final trial was left behind by the Asura Road Master. Through this smelting trial, one would obtain rewards from the Asura Road’s Heavenly Dao.

However, the difficulty of this final trial was above and beyond all imagination. Wanting to complete it was impossibly difficult.

When Lin Ming had asked Soulwhite about the final trial, he had said that in the last 100 million years, there were only two people who had completed the final trial with a score above 80%. One of these was a saint race martial artist and the other was a soul race martial artist; one man, and one woman.

The saint martial artist was Lin Ming’s great enemy – the Good Fortune Saint Son Wumo. He had completed the final trial with an 81% score!

As for that spiritas woman, she was even more terrifying. She had completed the final trial with an 83% score!

This was the highest record for the last 100 million years!

Chapter 1592 – Healing Wounds

The reason that Lin Ming came to the Asura Road was also to enter the final trial. He wasn't sure just how much of the final trial he could complete.

In completing the final trial, every 5% was a small leap and every 10% was a massive jump.

In the last 100 million years, out of all the innumerable young geniuses that had ventured into the Asura Road from all over the 33 Heavens, including all of the countless martial artists that were native to the Asura Road, when all of these people were added together, only two people had managed to surpass 80% in completion.

Then, there was still 85%, 90%, and even 95%.

Every higher grade meant a massive leap in difficulty!

Lin Ming's advantage, besides his own talent, was that no one could compete with his understanding of the Asura Heavenly Dao. By relying on this, he was greatly anticipating the final trial!

However, in order to enter the final trial there was something he had to inevitably do. This was to experience numerous trials within the Asura Road, obtain multiple sets of god runes, and then complete all sorts of other conditions.

And obtaining these god runes and satisfying all the conditions of the Asura Road was not easy at all.

Sometimes these conditions would even change and one would need to search for them.

In addition, some missions required a specific amount of time to complete. For instance, some missions were within mystic realms but these mystic realms only opened every ten years, so one might need to wait ten years for the chance to enter.

And for these mystic realms that had missions, sometimes they were too far away and their entrance location was always changing, so entering them wasn't easy. Even after finding the way in after great difficulty, one could still perish if their strength was lacking.

In short, one needed to invest a massive amount of time and energy to obtain the qualifications for the final trial.

To someone like Lin Ming, although he was strong, his talent was high and completing these missions wasn't too difficult, what he lacked was time!

The great calamity of humanity could erupt at any moment and he also had a duel against the Good Fortune Saint Son that he had sworn to fight within a hundred years. Now, he had to cultivate the essence gathering system as well as prepare to further open the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace; that required him to practice the divine runic arts and alchemy. To him, time was of the essence.

When Mo Brightmoon mentioned the qualifications for the final smelting trial, Lin Ming's thoughts inevitably stirred.

But for a time, Lin Ming didn't open his mouth due to his embarrassment about asking of this matter. Luckily, Mo Brightmoon could see Lin Ming's thoughts. She gently smiled and said, "The final trial qualifications could be said to be for one person, but the truth is that within the Asura Road there is a type of 'collective transmission' god rune. With this god rune, there can be a total of five people who enter the final trial together, forming a squad. Many young elites that enter the final trial form a team to continue onwards. If you wish, then when the true final trial begins I can bring you with me. With you, I'm sure that these final trial qualifications will not be wasted."

Lin Ming was someone that Mo Eversnow had chosen, and the development of his strength was far more important than Mo Brightmoon's strength. Moreover, Mo Brightmoon was well aware

that becoming a Great World King was her limit. As for Lin Ming, his future was limitless.

Lin Ming was the most suitable candidate to join these final trial qualifications.

“Then I really must thank you... I really do need these qualifications. Moreover...” Lin Ming’s words lingered as he awkwardly turned to Xiao Moxian not too far away. As Lin Ming and Mo Brightmoon were talking, Xiao Moxian had been peacefully sitting near a window, not interrupting them.

For Lin Ming to turn towards Xiao Moxian at this time, he clearly wanted to ask Mo Brightmoon whether or not she could also bring Xiao Moxian along.

Mo Brightmoon chuckled. “I indeed had a candidate in mind, but no matter how good that candidate is they still cannot compare with your dao companion. I must say, I also don’t know Miss’ name, I’m quite ashamed of myself...”

At the start, Mo Brightmoon didn’t place too much importance on Lin Ming, only on the imaginary master that stood behind him. As for the young girl that followed Lin Ming, she had regarded her as Lin Ming’s partner and thus didn’t pay too much attention to her, not even asking for her name.

Xiao Moxian didn’t care too much about it. She clucked her tongue and happily said, “My name is Ji Xian’er, but you can call me Xian’er.”

“Ji Xian’er... mm, that’s a good name. Then, Xian’er, Lin Ming, I, as well as two others I chose before, will be the five people to attend the final trial. Although it is said that we form a team, the trial will look further into our individual talent the further in we go. So Lin Ming, Xian’er, you two must display your talent to your limits.”

“Miss Brightmoon, please rest assured that I will not disappoint

you for choosing us for those two spots.” Lin Ming solemnly said. He was sufficiently confident in himself as well as filled with expectations. “Speaking of which, when can we enter the final trial?”

“The final trial occurs every hundred years. Until the next opening of the final trial, there is still 50 years...”

“50 years?”

Lin Min was stunned. This time had exceeded his expectations. He had only lived for 50 some years so far. If another 50 years passed, then he would almost be twice as old.

“You think that’s too long?” Mo Brightmoon said, seeing Lin Ming’s expression. In the Asura Road, young elites came to adventure for a long time. On the shorter end it would be hundreds of years and on the longer end it could be thousands or even 10,000 years. There were even some people that never managed to leave after coming here.

In reality, 50 years wasn’t anything at all.

“I’m good.” Lin Ming quickly composed himself. He could wait for 50 years and there were also many matters he needed to attend to during this period that required a massive amount of time.

For instance, practicing the Celestial Tyrant Manual, collecting the heavenly materials needed to open the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace, practicing divine runic arts and alchemy, all of this required him to study them in detail.

Moreover, his cultivation had risen too quickly in Tragic Death Valley. He required some time to digest all of his accumulations and consolidate his own foundation. He had to do this sooner or later otherwise he would encounter bottlenecks when he was trying to rise to the next cultivation boundary.

These 50 years would be an essential part of Lin Ming’s accumulation process.

As for Lin Ming's battle with the Good Fortune Saint Son, he originally had a hundred years of time. If 50 years were deducted he still had plenty of time to return. Although Lin Ming had stayed in Tragic Death Valley for nine years, that was time spent within a time enchantment; the truth was that only a year had passed outside.

“Good, I'll wait 50 years and then go to this final trial!”

Lin Ming decided. In these 50 years he would have to consolidate and accumulate his cultivation in the essence gathering system as well as make another breakthrough in the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace!

Thus, Lin Ming and Mo Brightmoon shared sound transmission marks and settled on a meeting approximately 50 years from now.

“Miss Brightmoon, I will leave the Marvel Blue Nation soon. This struggle for the throne isn't something I will participate in. Besides White Sky, how many enemies does Miss Brightmoon have? After your recovery, will you be able to handle them yourself?”

The final trial qualifications could be used for a team of five to participate. If it was only White Sky who wanted to enter then he could simply give Mo Brightmoon some advantages and join her team. But, he insisted on taking away the final trial qualifications, proving that he had a partner or had even gathered an entire team of five.

“There are four or five... but as long as I've recovered I'll be fine. I don't fear them at all.” Mo Brightmoon had mixed in within the Asura Road and an assassin organization for so many years and had experienced numerous dangers and life or death slaughters. If she couldn't overcome this tribulation then there was no way she could have lived this long.

“Great, then let me assist you in healing your wounds now. I feel that there is more than one type of dao pattern left behind in your body?”

Lin Ming had probed Mo Brightmoon's physical condition with his sense and discovered that within her inner world, several types of Asura Dao patterns had been left behind.

These dao patterns represented the Heavenly Dao Laws of the Asura Road. If one didn't understand the Asura Heavenly Dao, then they would be extremely difficult to expel, no matter how high their cultivation.

"Mm, these are traces from tracking god runes; they aren't the divine runic arts. Can you undo them?"

In the Asura Road, some god runes had special effects. For instance, transmitting teammates, tracking enemies, controlling slaves, and so forth. Many people would use these as supportive arcane skills. When Lin Ming controlled Soulwhite he had also used a controlling god rune.

"I'll give it a try..." Lin Ming said, not giving any absolute assurances. He pointed towards a bed in the room and motioned for Mo Brightmoon to lie down.

The bed was covered with red silks. As Mo Brightmoon lay down on the bed, her long red skirt spread out like a rose in full bloom.

Lin Ming hesitated for a moment. Then, he extended his hands and pressed them against Mo Brightmoon's belly.

Mo Brightmoon originally wore a short, tight-fitting bustier that revealed her lower belly. Her skin seemed smooth to the touch, like soft jade.

An essence gathering system martial artist's inner world was located at their lower abdomen; this was also where a person's dantian was.

At this time, Lin Ming's mind was as still as a placid lake, without a single distracting thought. He sunk his divine sense into Mo Brightmoon's inner world, investigating every dao pattern, locking onto their positions, remembering their structure and textures...

Chapter 1593 – Blue Moon Sect

The god runes of the Asura Road were originally a manifestation of the Asura Heavenly Dao. Lin Ming relied on his comprehension of the Asura Sutra First Volume to slowly change the positions of these Asura Dao patterns.

These dao patterns existed within Mo Brightmoon's inner world as threads of energy. After a long time passed, these threads of energy would eventually melt away until they vanished altogether.

But now, they couldn't afford the time and had to clear out these threads as soon as possible.

Lin Ming found a thread of energy and said to Mo Brightmoon, "I'm going to start. This may hurt."

Every energy thread of dao patterns had sunk into Mo Brightmoon's flesh and blood. Wanting to pull them out was the same as drawing out an extremely tough string from someone's body; there would be a considerable amount of pain.

If a mortal had to withstand this pain they would immediately faint.

Martial artists had a far higher pain tolerance than mortals did. But, their bodies were far more solid so pulling out these energy threads was also much more difficult and painful.

As Lin Ming locked onto an energy thread with his own energy and began to pull it out, Mo Brightmoon violently shook. Small bumps began to appear where Lin Ming's hand touched her abdomen.

Lin Ming couldn't help but slow down a little.

"Continue." Mo Brightmoon grit her teeth. Growing up until now, she had experienced many hardships and tribulations. To her, this pain couldn't be considered anything at all.

Lin Ming nodded. He twined a finger around the energy thread and began to pull it outwards.

His actions were extremely gentle. But even so, the pain caused by these Heavenly Dao traces flooded her with pain like an endless tsunami.

Waves of agonizing pain smashed into Mo Brightmoon's spiritual sea. Although she didn't say anything her entire body was soaked with sweat, making her seem even more enchanting.

Lin Ming was completely focused on the task at hand. In a quarter hour, the energy thread that formed a complex Heavenly Dao trace was finally pulled out.

As soon as this energy thread was completely pulled out into the air, it disappeared in a flash of light.

Lin Ming didn't stop here. He began to pull out a second one.

Then, a third and a fourth. After two whole hours of time, Lin Ming had completely cleared out all traces of the Heavenly Dao.

And at this time, Mo Brightmoon's body was dripping sweat, her face was white, and her lips had lost all color. She appeared extremely fragile right now.

Lin Ming let out a long breath of relief. This process had consumed a great deal of energy.

Finally, the Great Dao scars within Mo Brightmoon's body were all eliminated and no one would be able to track down her position again. All that was left over was the unliving poison that still pervaded her body. But with Mo Brightmoon's strength and in a situation where she wasn't restricted by those Great Dao scars, driving out the rest of the poison should only take several more days.

"We're good here. Miss Brightmoon, I will return to my room first. Ten days from now I will leave, and the next time we meet again might be 50 years from now..."

Mo Brightmoon weakly nodded. As she looked into her own inner world, she saw that it was just like Lin Ming had said. The Great Dao scars within her body had all been cleared out by him.

This caused Mo Brightmoon to fall into even greater disbelief. Those scars were something that not even Old Su had been able to do anything about. His only suggestion was for her to wait for years and allow the energy in those scars to slowly fade away until they vanished.

But Lin Ming had only used two hours to clean up all of them. It was far too amazing.

“50 years from now... I’ll see you then...”

Mo Brightmoon ruefully smiled. She also planned to leave Heaven’s Net. Within Heaven’s Net, the only person she was close with was the big boss. But now, she had disappeared, gone to fulfill a wish she had for her entire life and it wasn’t known whether she was still alive. With that, there wasn’t anything in the whole of Heaven’s Net that Mo Brightmoon wasn’t too reluctant to part ways with...

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Ten days later, Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian left the Marvel Blue Nation. In these ten days, Lord Snow had heard news of what had happened and repeatedly visited Lin Ming to form relations with him. However, Lin Ming refused him every time. Lin Ming didn’t need to be a genius to know just what Lord Snow wanted, and that was for Lin Ming to assist him in ascending the throne.

But Lin Ming wasn’t interested in involving himself in the struggles and strife of the imperial palace, thus he directly and simply refused all attempts to pull him in.

Lord Snow was also helpless in this matter. He had no choice but to give up.

In these ten days, Lin Ming had carefully crafted his plan for the

next 50 years.

Besides consolidating his foundation and accumulating his cultivation, he decided to make the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace his main cultivation focus.

And in order to open the second Dao Palace of the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace, he had to refine an extremely rare and precious pill of the Celestial Tyrant Manual – the Ravenous Wolf Heaven Pill.

This type of pill required many rare and precious heavenly materials. Moreover, there were extremely strict standards required of the alchemist who was refining it. This was something that was impossible to buy and could even be called an utterly priceless medicine with no market price.

In order to refine this pill, Lin Ming would have to begin by collecting all the materials and then refining it himself.

Without a doubt, this would consume a disgusting amount of time and energy.

But no matter how much time Lin Ming had to spend he would still complete it. To him, the body transformation technique was in no way less important to him than the essence gathering system.

So, Lin Ming returned to Divine Rune City and with his status as a member of the Divine Runic Masters Guild, he used the highest 15% discount to buy up a pile of materials as large as a mountain.

The total price of these materials could leave one panic-stricken; Lin Ming spent just over 200 nine sun jades!

In the past, Lin Ming had inherited a massive amount of wealth within Primordius Heavenly Palace. But after being chased down by Tian Mingzi in the Asura Road and also freely spending so much money in Divine Rune City, Lin Ming's wealth had shrunk down to a precipitous state. He had less than 50 nine sun jades remaining.

Lin Ming couldn't help but forcefully smile. No matter how rich he was, he still couldn't continue spending money like he was

dumping water without having any income at all.

As for practicing alchemy and the divine runic arts, Lin Ming didn't plan to do so in the Divine Runic Masters Guild. This was because Lin Ming didn't need a master and could practice by himself.

Compared to the bustling Divine Rune City that had countless transactions happening within its borders every day, Lin Ming preferred a calmer, more peaceful place.

Only this type of place best suited Lin Ming's mindset to practice the divine runic arts and alchemy, as well as hone his cultivation and stabilize his foundation in preparation for the future when he was finally ready to break into the Holy Lord realm.

Thus after buying all the materials he needed, Lin Ming rode Primordius Heavenly Palace, which was camouflaged as a spirit ship, and flew away from Divine Rune City.

He flew for half a month.

The Asura Road was a universe that coexisted with the 33 Heavens. In terms of actual area it wasn't as large as one of the 33 Heavens, but a great world of the Divine Realm still couldn't compare to it in size.

As Primordius Heavenly Palace flew for half a month, Lin Ming saw countless countries and countless lives.

Within the Asura Road, races from all over the 33 Heavens could be found. There were also many people that were of mixed blood. There were more people than there were grains of sand in a desert. In order to count them, one would have to use trillions as the lowest base unit.

With so many lives, there were also innumerable sects.

The Blue Moon Sect was one of the innumerable large and small sects located within the inner Asura Road. It was an extremely common sect.

If one judged the Blue Moon Sect by the standards of the Divine Realm then it would only be a seventh grade sect. The supreme rulers of the sect were the Sect Master and the Highest Elder; both of them were at the Divine Lord realm and only the two of them were Divine Lords. Everyone else was below the Divine Lord realm.

Of these two people, the Highest Elder was 80,000 years old and at the middle Divine Lord realm. The Sect Master was 50,000 years old and at the early Divine Lord realm.

To Divine Lord realm powerhouses that lived less than 100,000 years, 50,000 years could be called middle-aged and 80,000 years could be called an extremely old age, nearing the point of death.

On this day, an extremely handsome young man and beautiful young woman came to the Blue Moon Sect, wanting to join. As for that young man, he claimed to be a low level divine runic master and alchemist.

Both of them were extremely young but their talent was outstanding. Even though they were only several dozen years old, they had already cultivated to the late Divine Sea realm.

To the Blue Moon Sect, these were two extremely wonderful seedlings. In the future they would reach the Divine Transformation realm and even have a chance of cultivating to the Divine Lord realm.

Thus, the Elders of the Blue Moon Sect personally welcomed these two people. After investigating their background, they were placed as inner court disciples.

The numerous Elders were highly satisfied with these two people's talent. As for the young man being a low level divine runic master and alchemist, they didn't care about this too much. They were only a small sect, so wanting to raise a divine runic high master was far beyond their league.

If a martial artist wanted to become a truly valuable divine runic master they needed to spend a massive amount of rare and precious materials. This was not something that the Blue Moon Sect could withstand. The two strongest martial artists in the Blue Moon Sect were merely Divine Lord powerhouses, so how much wealth could they have?

Like this, the young man and woman settled down in the Blue Moon Sect.

These two people were naturally Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian.

After Lin Ming finished his final considerations and plans, he chose this small sect to spend the first 20-30 years. This was a purer place with a simpler atmosphere.

He could live in peace here and practice his alchemy and divine runic arts while furthering his own cultivation.

As for Xiao Moxian, she certainly decided to join Lin Ming. During her nine years in Tragic Death Valley, her cultivation had risen far too fast. She needed time to consolidate it.

Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian suppressed their cultivation to the late Divine Sea realm. Of course, deceiving the people of the Blue Moon Sect wasn't a problem at all.

Lin Ming didn't do as many other disciples did when they joined the sect and started cultivating. Rather, after he moved in, he remodeled his own dwelling area so that there was a divine runic arts room and an alchemy room.

Higher level divine runic masters often constructed divine runic arts rooms that cost an astronomical price. As for Lin Ming, his room was far more normal and basic; he simply needed to make do.

As a sect Elder saw this situation and discovered that Lin Ming was indeed planning to practice the divine runic arts and alchemy, he immediately came to persuade Lin Ming to change his mind. He

didn't want Lin Ming to delay his cultivation for too long because of the divine runic arts and go astray, wasting away his own talent and time.

But Lin Ming only smiled, clearly unconvinced.

One's road of cultivation all depended on the individual; no one else could change their mind. If Lin Ming wished to take one path there was nothing the Elders could do. They could only allow Lin Ming to do as he pleased.

Thus, within the Blue Moon Sect, Lin Ming began his peaceful days of seclusion.

Every day he would thoroughly study the divine runic arts and alchemy. At night, he would meditate in his room, sometimes accumulating his cultivation, sometimes practicing Heavenly Extreme Bliss with Xiao Moxian. As the days passed, Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian's strength slowly consolidated.

Chapter 1594 – Quiet Training

News of Lin Ming establishing his own divine runic arts room and an alchemy room soon spread throughout the entire Blue Moon Sect.

This was extremely fresh and novel news. In the Asura Road, alchemists were not rare, but the occupation of divine runic master was considered a noble career throughout the entire Asura Road. Divine runic masters would only gather in peak great influences as well as large cities devoted to the divine runic arts like Divine Rune City.

But to the Blue Moon Sect, these peak great influences were simply legends amongst legends; it was impossible for them to ever come into contact with them. As for Divine Rune City, only the most amazing elites of the Blue Moon Sect were able to enter; ordinary disciples wouldn't even be able to step past the city gates.

Thus, the occupation of divine runic master was something that the disciples of the Blue Moon Sect had only heard of but had never seen before. As they suddenly heard that a divine runic master had appeared in their sect, all of them ran over to Lin Ming's residence to take a look and see just what a divine runic master looked like and what type of work they did.

However, this disciple called Lin Ming didn't seem willing to communicate with others. When the average person entered his residence he would actually remain in his alchemy room or divine runic arts room, tinkering with something, without any intention of coming out to greet guests.

Even if he wasn't refining pills or practicing divine runic arts, he would often be quietly meditating in his room. Or, he would sometimes be holding a blood red jade slip. This jade slip was extremely strange. It was far larger than an ordinary jade slip and had a very heavy and solemn appearance to it. It was unknown just

what was recorded within it.

This youth called Lin Ming would look at this jade slip every day. His straight eyebrows often rose up and wrinkled like he was puzzled. But sometimes he would have an extremely happy appearance as if he was suddenly enlightened.

These actions left his visiting guests feeling awkward and embarrassed. Others asked Lin Ming how he had come into contact with the divine runic arts, what his divine runic arts level was, or whether he had a true divine runic arts master as his teacher. But, Lin Ming either remained silent or immersed in his blood red jade slip, without seeming as if he heard anything at all. This caused those disciples that were extremely interested in the divine runic arts to feel snubbed, as if they were making themselves unwelcome.

There were many female disciples within the Blue Moon Sect. Many of these young girls were well known for their beauty within several hundred thousand or even millions of miles. However, no matter how outstanding their appearance or how amazing their talent was, they were all denied by Lin Ming.

Slowly, no one came to visit Lin Ming anymore.

And Lin Ming also began his quiet days of training.

After practicing martial arts for so many years, Lin Ming had never been like he was today, truly settling down his mind and heart, not needing to think about matters or worrying every day. Instead, he calmly and peacefully trained.

With Xiao Moxian, they were like an ordinary mortal couple. Every day was filled with ease and enjoyment.

Here there were no battles, no dangers, no mystic realms that he had to risk his life in, and no people with dark intentions that coveted his treasures.

Life and death dangers and slaughter battles were undoubtedly

helpful for making breakthroughs in cultivation.

But to practice the divine runic arts and accumulate cultivation, a peaceful environment was much more suitable. Many heroic young elites often spent several thousand years or even over 10,000 years to break into the Divine Lord realm.

Of these thousands upon thousands of years, only a minor period of time would be spent searching for lucky chances and adventuring through dangers. Most of the time would be spent tempering one's state of mind and accumulating one's cultivation and consolidating one's foundation. This was the life Lin Ming was living now.

Although his cultivation progressed extremely slowly during this time, this was an essential process of walking down the road of martial arts. All martial artists had to experience it and Lin Ming was no exception.

Spring became autumn and then back again. In the blink of an eye, a year had passed.

If Lin Ming wasn't practicing the divine runic arts or alchemy, he could be found with that blood red jade slip in his hands.

This jade slip was the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace section of the Celestial Tyrant Manual.

As Lin Ming was reading through this jade slip he didn't conceal anything. This was because no one would be able to recognize anything about this jade slip to begin with.

After diligently meditating for a year, Lin Ming gradually found clues about refining the Ravenous Wolf Heaven Pill.

Of the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace, the second Dao Palace corresponded to the Ravenous Wolf Star.

The Nine Stars of the Dao Palace, seven bright and two dark. They were – Ravenous Wolf, Titan Gate, Cherished Kismet, Merciful Song, Ardent Virtue, Martial Song, Army Breaker, Left

Aide, and Right Support.

The first Dao Palace that Lin Ming opened was the Purple Temple Dao Palace, corresponding to the Army Breaker Star.

The function of the Purple Temple Dao Palace was to gather the power of the nine stars and massively increase the strength of Lin Ming's astral essence. This sort of increase could enhance Lin Ming's bodily strength by three or four times to eight or nine times. All of this depended on a martial artist's own foundation and the degree to which they had opened the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace.

As for the second Dao Palace, that was named Heavenly Retribution Dao Palace, and corresponded to the Ravenous Wolf Star.

Lin Ming revolved his astral essence every day according to the Celestial Tyrant Manual. In addition to dual cultivating with Xiao Moxian, Lin Ming estimated that in another 20-30 years, he would finally reach the level where he could attempt to break into the Heavenly Retribution Dao Palace.

And in these 20-30 years, Lin Ming had to bring his divine runic arts and alchemy up to the level where he could refine the Ravenous Wolf Heavenly Pill.

Otherwise, if he spent an unimaginable amount of wealth and time to collect the materials for the Ravenous Wolf Heaven Pill but failed in refining it, that would truly be a hopelessness beyond crying.

Although there seemed to be plenty of time with the opening of the final trial being 50 years from now, the truth was that time was of the essence. There were far too many matters for Lin Ming to process.

Like this, a few more years passed. Lin Ming continuously practiced alchemy and the divine runic arts. The massive amount

of materials he had purchased from Divine Rune City was slowly used up.

His skill in the divine runic arts and alchemy also steadily increased.

During this time, Lin Ming refined a mind-boggling amount of low level pills and divine runic symbols.

Lin Ming's soul force far surpassed that of others at his level. In addition to his understanding of the Asura Heavenly Dao, whether it was refining pills or drawing up divine runic symbols, he was much faster than the average person would be.

However, even though Lin Ming had inherited the memories of three alchemists and divine runic masters, this didn't mean his alchemy technique and divine runic arts technique was flawless.

On this day, as Lin Ming was halfway through refining a furnace full of pills, there was a massive bang as the entire pill furnace exploded.

Even though Lin Ming reacted extremely fast, half the room still collapsed. The carefully arranged alchemy room was also left in an utter mess.

As a Divine Transformation outer court Elder of the Blue Moon Sect heard this news, he quickly went to personally check it out.

He inspected Lin Ming's body. Then, after making sure that Lin Ming was uninjured he gave him several words of advice. In short, he hinted that Lin Ming need not worry about such useless things and only needed to practice martial arts; that was the true, orthodox path.

In the eyes of these numerous Elders, experimenting with alchemy and divine runic arts was simply a wasteful occupation where one idled their time away. This was because with Lin Ming's current conditions it would be impossible for him to make any progress.

Moreover, the divine runic arts had too high a requirement on a martial artist's talent. Almost only spiritus martial artists were able to be divine runic masters. For a human martial artist to become a divine runic master, that was far, far, far too difficult.

To put it rudely, it was the dreams of a fool.

But Lin Ming didn't heed the advice of the Elder and the Elder couldn't force him. After all, if Lin Ming joined the Blue Moon Sect, he could also leave.

If they wanted to retain the mind and hearts of people, they needed to give them more freedom.

The Blue Moon Sect Elder sent a low level disciple to clean up the room. Soon, three outer court disciples came to Lin Ming's residence to clean his room.

These outer court disciples were in their teens and their cultivation was at the Pulse Condensation realm. They had just joined the Blue Moon Sect and had been chosen from the mortal world.

In the Blue Moon Sect, their status was low. Although they were called outer court disciples, the truth was that they weren't much different from maids.

Lin Ming glanced at these three female disciples. All of them looked naïve and adorable, like lovely young girls.

Lin Ming also knew that although these young girl disciples seemed to be living through many hardships, the truth was that their families were proud to have daughters who managed to pass the standards to join a large martial arts sect. The family and friends of these young girls were filled with pride and joy, and even the royalty of the mortal world had to show courtesy to their parents.

This was the deterrence brought about by a martial arts sect!

However, the road of martial arts was well known as being

extremely rough and filled with bumps. Although the families of these young girls were living bright and glorious lives, who knew what would happen to their daughters in the end? Perhaps they might be abducted by others to become living furnaces, or perhaps after a little bit of success they would perish in a mystic realm, or perhaps they might even be murdered for their possessions...

Thinking of this, Lin Ming lightly sighed. In the past when he first stepped onto the road of martial arts, he also suffered many difficulties.

Seeing the three young girls giving their best to clean up the room, Lin Ming's thoughts stirred. He waved his hand, beckoning them over.

These young girls froze. Lin Ming was a core disciple and his cultivation had reached the late Divine Sea realm. To them, he was an impossibly lofty character. Their difference in status couldn't even be described as clouds and mud.

Moreover, Lin Ming's manner was indifferent, and even when inner court disciples came to visit he still didn't respond to them. Even those amazingly talented and beautiful senior-apprentice sisters had to eat closed doors when they tried to approach Lin Ming.

But Lin Ming was actually calling them over. This made them all feel extremely flustered and flattered.

They stepped over, a bit shy, a bit nervous. Lin Ming took out some bottles. The contents of these bottles were some of the pills that Lin Ming had refined over the past few years.

As Lin Ming was practicing the divine runic arts and alchemy he had produced far too many pills and divine runic symbols. To Lin Ming, these things didn't have any value at all. They weren't even worth his time or effort selling them.

However, throwing them away was also a pity. Thus, Lin Ming

suddenly had the idea to give these things to others.

This was also for the benefit of the Blue Moon Sect.

After all, for these past years the Blue Moon Sect had treated him considerably well. After determining that Lin Ming's background had no problems, the Elders of the Blue Moon Sect would send someone over to deliver pills, origin energy runes, and other such resources. To the Blue Moon Sect that could be called poor, these things were worth a good amount of wealth.

These things were for the benefit of the inner court disciples. And because Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian had extremely high levels of talent, the benefits they received were higher than others'. But, Lin Ming also knew that he would have to eventually leave the Blue Moon Sect. If the Blue Moon Sect was depending on him to break through to the Divine Lord realm and become a pillar of the sect, they would be disappointed.

Thus, Lin Ming decided to give away all of these pills and divine runic symbols that didn't have much value to him to the disciples of the Blue Moon Sect.

The Blue Moon Sect was a small sect to begin with and he didn't fear arousing suspicions or causing waves by bringing out these items.

It wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that Lin Ming could raze a sect of this level to the ground with a single hand.

"These are for you." Lin Ming placed the bottles of pills in a jade box and passed it to the three Pulse Condensation realm outer court disciples. These disciples were lost in a daze, not sure what was in the jade box.

And at this time, Lin Ming said, "Go and call your sisters here as well as the male disciples you know. Call all of them here together."

Chapter 1595 – Middle Divine Lord Realm

The young female disciples received the jade box. From the slits of the jade box, a rich medicinal fragrance wafted out.

Just by smelling this medicinal fragrance they felt their bodies relax as comfort swept over them. The true essence circulating within their bodies quickened and their cultivation sharpened by several degrees.

If just smelling this medicinal fragrance had such an effect, then eating a pill directly would have an unimaginable benefit.

The oldest of the three young girls gulped. Her hands trembled as she opened the medicine bottle and several green pills rolled out.

These pills were crystalline and sparkled with a clear light. On the surface of the pills were strange lines, faintly hinting at the aura of mysterious Laws.

These lines that were carved onto the pills were pill symbols. The young girls had never seen these pill symbols before; they couldn't even recognize the names of most of these pills.

However, Lin Ming had given them several types of pills, and the young girls were able to recognize one of them.

This pill was called a Nine Yang Pill and was used by martial artists at the Xiantian realm or below. It was used to consolidate one's foundation and nourish one's blood vitality. Each Nine Yang Pill was several dozen times more precious than a single Heaven Opening Pill!

The young girls had once seen the sect provide these pills for talented disciples and had nearly been blinded by awe and greed. Of course, they didn't have the qualifications to use them.

These Nine Yang Pills that Lin Ming refined were different from the Nine Yang Pills they had seen before. These Nine Yang Pills had strange patterns on the surface, and seemingly because of these

patterns, the effects of these pills were far better!

These young girls didn't know that these 'pill patterns' were in fact traces of the Asura Heavenly Dao Laws left behind after Lin Ming reinforced them with the divine runic arts.

To Lin Ming these were useless items, but if placed within the Blue Moon Sect, these were treasures even to inner court disciples. These young girls were only outer court disciples, moreover, the effects of these pills were enhanced several times by the divine runic symbols drawn onto them.

In these years, the direction of divine runic arts that Lin Ming practiced had mainly focused on medicinal runic symbols.

Only these types of divine runic symbols had an effect on pills and thus were the most useful to Lin Ming.

“These medicines... are too precious... we cannot accept them...”

The oldest girl, one that looked around 18-19 years old, grit her teeth as she spoke. The truth was that one could see from her expression that she really wanted these pills.

Lin Ming faintly smiled. He had a much more favorable impression of this girl. It wasn't easy to gather the courage to reject such things.

During these years, Lin Ming had watched the low level disciples of the Blue Moon Sect go into seclusion, journey out to adventure, rush about for resources, and do all sorts of other things. This made him recall his experiences when he was also in his teens.

He lightly smiled, saying, “If I give them to you then take them. Or, are you afraid that the higher level disciples will steal them from you?”

Lin Ming was well aware that even though the Blue Moon Sect seemed like a calm and comfortable place, there were still inevitably inner struggles. These three young girls had ordinary levels of talent and there would naturally be people jealous of these

pills.

“For the things I give, I will naturally ensure justice is served. You can feel at ease in taking these pills.”

The two younger girls swallowed a gulp of saliva. Their hands shook as they held the pill bottles.

“Call those you know here.”

Lin Ming sent out the young girls. Several quarter hours later, there were really several outer court disciples that arrived.

These disciples were in their late teens or early twenties. None of them had a cultivation that surpassed the Xiantian realm. They had just started walking on their own roads of martial arts.

For these last four or five years, every other day Lin Ming would refine a furnace full of pills. When he refined less there would be seven or eight, and when he refined many there would be over a dozen. After accumulating pills for all these years, he had already gathered over 10,000 of them.

And, these 10,000 plus pills were all supported with divine runic symbols.

Placed within the Blue Moon Sect, this was an unimaginable level of wealth.

News of Lin Ming wantonly giving out pills soon spread to the entire Blue Moon Sect.

Many outer court disciple and inner court disciples only thought these were rumors, but after seeing the pills that Lin Ming passed out they had no choice but to believe this. Thus, disciples began to visit Lin Ming like droves of ducks. This was because his pills were far too tempting to them.

However, to the inner court disciples, Lin Ming didn't give pills freely. Instead he had them gather some violet sun crystals.

The price in violet sun crystals was only half or a third of the true

value of the pills. This sort of price was already extremely favorable. Many inner court disciples didn't have a place to purchase pills and these pills were far too difficult to buy to begin with.

Originally, Lin Ming wasn't too popular. This was because he was far too eccentric and withdrawn, ignoring all visitors that came to see him.

But now, because Lin Ming was passing out pills, this caused his reputation to rise to unprecedented degrees within the Blue Moon Sect.

"Where did these pills come from? Did you refine them?"

The Elders of the Blue Moon Sect were startled. Several of them came over to Lin Ming's residence to ask him.

"I obtained them through a variety of channels and some are refined by me." Lin Ming shrugged.

This vague answer clearly indicated that he didn't wish to speak more about the matter.

The Blue Moon Sect Elders were at a loss of what to do. In truth, it was completely reasonable for Lin Ming to refine these low level pills. According to common logic, these pills could be refined by a late Divine Sea alchemist.

But the low level pills that Lin Ming refined were far too great! Not even the nearby famous alchemists were able to refine pills of similar quality.

Had Lin Ming done all this by studying alone? Was he actually a rare prodigy of alchemy and the divine runic arts?

The Elders looked at each other. They didn't have any plans of pressing Lin Ming to reveal the origin of the pills. However, on the second day, the Elders invited a family famous for constructing cave dwellings to the Blue Moon Sect, where they constructed an expensive divine runic arts room and alchemy room for Lin Ming.

The Blue Moon Sect even helped Lin Ming by buying a great deal of alchemy materials for him.

This was all welcomed by Lin Ming. Although these were all low level materials, they were more than enough for Lin Ming to practice his technique.

Time slowly passed. The seasons came and went, from spring to fall and back again.

Lin Ming's skill in the divine runic arts and alchemy reached an increasingly high degree of proficiency.

Now, what he pursued was not just quality in alchemy and divine runic arts, but speed.

At the start, Lin Ming would refine a furnace of pills every two days. Now he would refine two furnaces of pills every single day.

A massive amount of low level pills was constantly produced by Lin Ming.

Although Lin Ming was only giving away some of the inferior medicines he had refined, the quality of these medicines became increasingly high.

Gradually, Lin Ming's reputation soared to the heavens!

More and more disciples came to purchase pills from Lin Ming. There were even some nearby sects that would come to the Blue Moon sect to purchase pills. Of course, the price this time would rise to the market standard.

Although the price of the pills was increasing, more and more people flocked to buy them.

At this time, no one suspected Lin Ming of obtaining pills from 'various channels' any longer. If so many pills were being sold and given out, then the only possibility was that Lin Ming refined them himself.

The Blue Moon Sect realized they had picked up a treasure!

The income from selling pills went into Lin Ming's hands. Then, he handed this money over to the Blue Moon Sect to have them seek out different materials.

The materials Lin Ming wanted were of an increasingly high grade. The pills he refined also became increasingly refined.

Of course, Lin Ming would not bring out pills that true Divine Lord or Holy Lord realm martial artists could use, in order to prevent some martial artists having dark thoughts. Lin Ming wasn't scared of them, but if they were to bother him it would be impossible for him to peacefully and calmly meditate here.

Slowly, 12 years passed.

The cultivation that Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian revealed was risen to the Divine Transformation realm.

In the Blue Moon Sect, Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian experienced the toil of daily life. Every now and then they would join the disciples of the Blue Moon Sect to go out adventuring.

For instance, exploring mystic realms, finishing missions, and so forth.

By watching the slaughter and struggles of low level martial artists, he actually found a strange feeling that he had almost forgotten. This odd feeling strangely touched Lin Ming's heart.

And in the 13th year, as Lin Ming was calmly meditating one day he finally felt something stir within his inner world. He knew that his cultivation was about to make a breakthrough!

From the early Divine Lord realm to the middle Divine Lord realm!

This breakthrough didn't come suddenly at all. It could be called a simple matter of course. This was like filling a cup with wine, filling it so much that it naturally overflowed.

And the scene of this breakthrough was extremely peaceful.

In the past when Lin Ming made breakthroughs, they tended to shake the heavens and earth or be extremely thrilling, sometimes almost breaking apart his inner world.

But, this breakthrough was tranquil, like a quiet spring day.

Lin Ming only sat in meditation for the night and on the next day as he opened his eyes, his inner world had developed once more and his cultivation rose to the middle Divine Lord realm.

Besides the sensitive Xiao Moxian feeling the change of atmosphere in the room, not even tiny animals in the surrounding area were alarmed.

After five months Xiao Moxian also broke into the middle Divine Lord realm. She only cultivated the essence gathering system and her cultivation speed had been faster than Lin Ming's. If it wasn't for Lin Ming obtaining greater advantages during all the lucky chances they experienced, then perhaps Lin Ming's essence gathering system cultivation might have fallen behind Xiao Moxian's.

After making a breakthrough, Lin Ming's strength rose once more. As for the level of Lin Ming's divine runic arts, it arrived at the standard of a peak fifth grade divine runic master. Moreover, even amongst ordinary fifth grade divine runic masters, Lin Ming had a special advantage; that was that no one could compare to his understandings of the Asura Heavenly Dao.

And at this time, Lin Ming finally began his preparations to refine the Ravenous Wolf Heaven Pill. In refining the Ravenous Wolf Heaven Pill, just collecting the required materials would take a tremendous amount of time. He had no choice but to prepare as early as possible. Just by breaking into the middle Divine Lord realm, Lin Ming's strength hadn't risen by too much. If he were able to open another Dao Palace then he would be much more confident in entering the final trial.

Chapter 1596 – Nirvana of the Mind

“Lin Ming, are you planning to start refining the Ravenous Wolf Heaven Pill?” Xiao Moxian asked from the side. She watched as Lin Ming looked through the Celestial Tyrant Manual for the last several days, seeming to be calculating something.

“It’s good to make preparations early. Although this Ravenous Wolf Heaven Pill isn’t a transcendent divine pill, the difficulty of creating it actually is no less than one. And in terms of how precious the materials are, it surpasses a transcendent divine pill. This could be called a test on my skill and wealth...”

As Lin Ming spoke to her he ruefully smiled. In terms of cultivation level it was definitely impossible for him to refine a transcendent divine pill.

Within the Divine Realm, a transcendent divine pill was the highest grade of pill possible.

A good portion of transcendent divine pills came from the hands of Emphyreans.

But, Emphyreans were limited in number to begin with and most Emphyreans were not skilled alchemists. Although their cultivation was high, they might not be able to match up to half-step Emphyreans and Great World Kings who specialized in alchemy when it came to their level of skill.

Thus, a good part of the transcendent divine pills were also refined by half-step Emphyreans and peak Great World Kings.

In refining a transcendent divine pill, one needed not just sufficient skill in alchemy but also a minimum cultivation base. If one’s cultivation was lacking then they wouldn’t be able to continue through the entire alchemy process. Just achieving a certain temperature of fire would be impossible.

Lin Ming’s current strength couldn’t compare to that of a peak

Great World King, so refining a transcendent divine pill was impossible for him.

However, Lin Ming had the support of the divine runic arts and the Asura Heavenly Dao. He could refine a top pill at the peak level of an ordinary World King and then use the divine runic arts to forcefully increase its grade to the standard of a transcendent divine pill.

This was also Lin Ming's greatest goal in studying the divine runic arts: to use the Asura Heavenly Dao to change the rules and find a shortcut.

"After a dozen more years or so my alchemy skill should be able to stand on par with the alchemists I have absorbed and even rise to the level of a top ordinary World King. At that time, I should be able to refine the Ravenous Wolf Heaven Pill..."

Lin Ming pondered. Currently, his strength could be considered quite good amongst ordinary World Kings. In another six or seven years, he should be able to reach the level of sex fiend Torchriver's alchemy skill. Lin Ming had confidence in himself in this aspect, and moreover when it came to the divine runic arts, it was possible he could surpass Torchriver due to his thorough understanding of the Asura Heavenly Dao.

It was only the materials needed for the Ravenous Wolf Heaven Pill that were giving Lin Ming a headache. There were all sorts of rare and precious heavenly materials and most of them couldn't be bought, so how would he go about collecting them?

Lin Ming jotted down the materials he needed in a list.

Of them, the most precious were – dragon saliva grass, heaven devouring snake gallbladder, jade dragon's horn, primal jade quintessence...

Many of these materials were connected to God Beasts!

Speaking of just dragon saliva grass, that was divine grass that

was watered and raised with the saliva of a True Dragon!

There were said to be True Dragons and ancient pythons that would wait for a heavenly material to grow, watering it with their saliva the entire time. They would wait for 10,000 years, 100,000 years, until that heavenly material matured and then they would eat it to increase their own strength.

This sort of heavenly material was priceless and the key problem was that there was almost no market for them. This was because these heavenly materials were often eaten by their guardian beasts after they matured, so how could anyone obtain them?

As for a heaven devouring snake gallbladder, that was the gallbladder from a heaven devouring eight path python. Although this type of ancient desolate beast was far from being as strong as a God Beast, in the entire Asura Road there was only a single place to obtain them, and that was deep within the Great Desolate.

And there was no need to mention the dangers within the Great Desolate. That was a land where even Emphyreans had to be cautious.

The jade dragon's horn was the bone of a True Dragon. Its grade was far beyond the supreme dragon bone that Lin Ming had absorbed in the past, the only exception being that it didn't need to be as large.

All of the materials left Lin Ming with a ringing migraine. If he tried to gather them himself it would be absolutely impossible to collect them all. For instance, that dragon saliva grass was something that could only be discovered through a stroke of fate.

If Lin Ming wanted to obtain these materials his only choice was to buy them.

And to buy these things, even if he had a massive amount of wealth he still might not be able to find a place to purchase them. Not just that but he wasn't even wealthy to begin with!

This left Lin Ming in a dilemma.

The road of the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace was simply far too expensive. Although it seemed exaggerated that Lin Ming could jump ranks to fight like he could, this sort of monstrous strength was created with the consumption of countless heavenly materials. Every time Lin Ming took a single step forwards in the body transformation technique he had to consume resources dozens of times that of an essence gathering system martial artist, or even hundreds of times.

Time passed, the years leaving no mark.

Without noticing it, another 12 years passed. Lin Ming had stayed in this small and unknown sect for a full 25 years.

In these 25 years, Lin Ming seemed to have once again tasted the difficulties and hardships of low level martial artists as they tried to climb to the top.

In these 25 years, Lin Ming's strength didn't rise by too much. But, his state of mind seemed to change, slowly settling and evolving from the constant state of intrigue and slaughter that he experienced for the first 50 some years of his life.

The reason he chose the Blue Moon Sect to practice his divine runic arts and consolidate his foundation instead of Divine Rune City was because compared to Divine Rune City, this Blue Moon Sect was a relatively weak environment. Here, he could lead a simple life, unaffected by the deceits and struggles of the inner court disciples.

To him, any conflicts between the Blue Moon Sect disciples were like fighting between small ants.

In these 25 years of tranquil living, Lin Ming experienced a nirvana of his mind.

It was time to leave.

This Blue Moon Sect could be called the place Lin Ming had

stayed at for the longest time in his life. Here, he didn't need to think about anything. He could calmly cultivate, living a mortal life with Xiao Moxian.

It could be expected that he would not experience such peaceful and comfortable days in the future. Whether it was the final trial or the great calamity of the Divine Realm, Lin Ming had to face them all. He could be said to be wandering into a violent storm of blood and terror!

And at this time, the granddaughter of the Blue Moon Sect's Sovereign, a young girl named Qian Qiao, came to Lin Ming to study alchemy.

Qian Qiao was 22 years old. In the world of martial artists, she was extremely young.

She was born three years after Lin Ming came to the Blue Moon Sect. Afterwards when Lin Ming became famous, Qian Qiao was still young. At that time she had taken Lin Ming as her idol and now she had grown into a slim and delicate young girl.

Qian Qiao's talent was very good and her soul force far surpassed other martial artists of her age. Because of this, she was particularly fascinated by alchemy. Every so often she would come to Lin Ming for advice, and unlike the other inner court disciples she was always quiet for fear of disturbing Lin Ming. After all, Lin Ming was usually cold and indifferent to whoever he faced, as if he didn't have any patience at all.

Qian Qiao had never bothered Lin Ming. Sometimes she would simply watch Lin Ming quietly in the room, taking notes as he practiced his alchemy.

At times, Lin Ming would even give her some pointers. Every time, Lin Ming could see a hint of admiration from this young girl's eyes, and even youthful adoration.

The current Lin Ming had many more experiences than he had in

the past. He naturally knew what this look meant.

However, Qian Qiao never expressed anything but the utmost respect for Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian.

Towards this little girl called Qian Qiao, Xiao Moxian would often tease Lin Ming about her. It seemed that she was quite fond of her.

Unwittingly and unknowingly, Xiao Moxian's own state of mind experienced a great change. From the past naughty and mischievous young girl she had been, she had matured a great deal and become much calmer.

As Lin Ming watched Qian Qiao quietly recording his alchemy attainments in the outer hall, for some reason he recalled many past memories. For a time many feelings washed over him. It seemed he had developed a strange feeling towards this place where he had lived for the last 25 years.

Or, it was better to say that Lin Ming wasn't nostalgic to stay in the Blue Moon Sect, but reluctant to part with the 25 years of ease and comfort he had lived. This was a type of living that he had never experienced.

Thinking back to the past, it was probably only during his childhood that he lived such a peaceful life.

But in any event, Lin Ming was destined to not stay here for much longer.

On this day, Lin Ming called over Qian Qiao and earnestly taught her the divine runic arts. After 10-12 hours of teaching, they finally ended when the sun set.

Before leaving, Lin Ming recorded many of his alchemy attainments and passed it to Qian Qiao, along with a bracelet.

Qian Qiao looked at Lin Ming in a daze for some time, her cheeks flushed red. She was surprised that Lin Ming had been so patient with her today.

After several breaths of time, she turned around and left with a satisfied expression. As she walked away, her long black hair gently rippled in the wind, dancing in beat with the leaves...

Lin Ming lightly sighed. That night, he and Xiao Moxian left this place that they had lived in for 25 years...

Their figures quietly vanished in the endless night. No one noticed they vanished, and not even the mountain array formations that protected the Blue Moon Sect were able to detect them.

When Qian Qiao returned to her room, she searched through the bracelet that Lin Ming had given her and was shocked.

This bracelet seemed like an ordinary accessory but the truth was that it was a storage spirit artifact similar to a spatial ring. Left in this bracelet was over a thousand medium grade pills as well as a massive amount of divine runic symbols that hadn't yet been used.

These medium grade pills were sufficient for Divine Sea realm or Divine Transformation realm martial artists to use! They were even valuable for Divine Lord realm martial artists!

These pills were the ones that Lin Ming had never taken out to sell before. This was because according to common sense, with the level of alchemy he could reach with his cultivation he should never have been able to produce such high quality medium grade pills.

After Qian Qiao was stunned she returned to Lin Ming's residence to look for him. But, Lin Ming had already vanished, without leaving a single trace of himself behind.

As she looked through the empty alchemy room and divine runic arts room, she felt hollow for a moment, her heart sinking. Then, she passed all the pills to her grandfather, the Sect Master of the Blue Moon Sect.

After receiving these thousand plus medium grade pills, the Blue

Moon Sect Master was left dumbfounded, shocked speechless.

“Will they come back?” Qian Qiao suddenly asked, as if she seemed to realize something.

The Blue Moon Sect Master lightly sighed. He ruefully smiled and said, “They are not people of our world... chances are, they will not return...”

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One month later, Divine Rune City –

A spirit ship came to a slow stop as a young man and woman flew off the deck.

After 25 years, Lin Ming had returned to Divine Rune City.

But, there was no comparing the him of today to the him of 25 years ago.

The refinement of the Ravenous Wolf Heaven Pill would all begin here.

Chapter 1597 – Astronomically Expensive Materials

When Lin Ming returned to Divine Rune City, he discovered that the atmosphere was different from before. There were over ten times the guards stationed at the city gates.

Originally, there were several guards at the gates of Divine Rune City, and their cultivation was at the Divine Lord realm.

But now, there was a small army of soldiers, and the leader of this group was a Holy Lord.

Every person that entered the city was subjected to a strict interrogation. That Holy Lord captain always held a crystal ball in his hands with strange Law lines that shimmered within it.

These Law lines were clearly due to the divine runic arts. Lin Ming could see from a glance that this crystal ball was used to determine whether or not a martial artist that was trying to enter the city had disguised their cultivation.

“Strange...”

Lin Ming rubbed his chin. Why was Divine Rune City on such high alert all of a sudden?

“Is there some influence that wants to attack Divine Rune City?” Xiao Moxian asked.

Lin Ming shook his head. “It shouldn’t be. Divine Rune City is a neutral place to begin with and it is a massive influence with a tremendous number of divine runic masters. There shouldn’t be anyone that would move against Divine Rune City, especially since so many other organizations depend on them.”

Lin Ming pressed down the suspicions in his mind. He walked over to the city gates with Xiao Moxian whereupon the both of them were immediately stopped.

“City entrance token!” A martial artist icily said as he blocked Lin Ming’s path. Lin Ming looked at the war armor that these guards were wearing. Some of them wore the standard service armor of Divine Rune City and others didn’t.

As if they were formed from two different groups.

Lin Ming said, “I am a divine runic master from the Divine Runic Masters Guild. This is my badge.”

Lin Ming took out his third grade divine runic master badge. After the guard inspected it, he returned it to Lin Ming and allowed him and Xiao Moxian to pass.

After entering Divine Rune City, it became apparent that the inside clearly hadn’t changed much. The streets were still busy and bustling as usual.

Lin Ming walked all the way to the Divine Runic Masters Guild, flashing his divine runic master badge and entering.

As he passed through the trading area he saw many divine runic masters and alchemists trading within. He also immediately saw Old Xue.

At this time Old Xue was comfortably reclining back in a rocking chair. A pile of random items was placed in front of him and he seemed to have fallen asleep.

After 25 years, Old Xue hadn’t changed at all.

As Lin Ming and Xiao Moxian walked past, Old Xue’s eyes suddenly shot open. “Hey boy, so it was you!”

Old Xue’s eyes shined as he saw Lin Ming as if he had seen a treasure. He looked at Lin Ming for a long time, looking him up and down until even Lin Ming began feeling uncomfortable.

Lin Ming coughed, “Elder Xue, it’s been a while.”

Xiao Moxian also sweetly called out, “Elder Xue, it’s nice to see you.”

Old Xue lit up with a smile as he heard Xiao Moxian greet him. He had an extremely good impression of this likable young girl. But as he turned back to Lin Ming, his face darkened.

“It’s been over 20 years. Do you even remember that you are a divine runic master of the Divine Runic Masters Guild? Brat, I think you must have forgotten everything as you went adventuring outside! Even so, it seems you managed to make a breakthrough in your cultivation. I remember that when you left you were only at the early Divine Lord realm.”

Lin Ming rolled his eyes. It seemed this Old Xue really spoke without caring for what he said.

“It’s a lucky breakthrough. I must say Old Xue, now that I’ve returned to Divine Rune City I saw a great number of guards standing outside. Just what is going on?”

“Heh, it’s a war.” Old Xue grinned, looking as if he didn’t care much. It seemed he was already accustomed to these types of situations.

“Although I said it’s a war, the truth is that it’s not related to us. It’s a spiritus Empyrean influence of the inner Asura Road, the Extreme Star Holy Lands, fighting with another saint Empyrean influence, the Heaven Strife Holy Lands. As for the reason they decided to suddenly go to war, it’s probably because they are competing for something. Our Divine Runic Masters Guild is one of the groups supporting the Extreme Star Holy Lands. Because they’re at war they buy up a massive amount of pills and divine runic symbols that are constantly transported to the war front. As for the guards at the city entrance, they were sent here by the Extreme Star Holy Lands. They’re afraid that there will be some saint spy infiltrating into our city to stir up chaos. During this period of war, all saint martial artists, regardless of whether or not they’re connected to the Heaven Strife Holy Lands, are forbidden from entering the city.”

In these last 100 million years, the Divine Runic Masters Guild would occasionally cooperate with some great influences and provide them with a massive number of pills and divine runic symbols. Of course, these great influences would pay them back with rich rewards, including origin energy runes, rare and precious materials, inheritance jade slips, and so forth.

This was a significant source of wealth for the Divine Runic Masters Guild. Compared to the income of the shops in Divine Rune City, the income from participating in these wars was often far more valuable.

“So it’s like that.” Lin Ming thoughtfully said. When human martial artists studied the divine runic arts they were only inferior to the spiritas. As for the saints, they could be called simple-minded with extremely brawny bodies; their soul force was pitifully weak and they weren’t suited for auxiliary skills like the divine runic arts or alchemy.

Moreover, the saints didn’t have a good relationship with the spiritas to begin with. Indeed, in all these years, there weren’t many saint martial artists that came to Divine Rune City.

The crystal balls placed at the gates of the city were to prevent any saint martial artists from sneaking their way in.

Lin Ming was secretly startled. In these 100 million years it was unknown how many times the Divine Runic Masters Guild had cooperated with other influences like this. The wealth they had accumulated after all this time could be imagined.

“I must say boy, why did you return so suddenly? Is there something going on?” Old Xue eyed Lin Ming suspiciously. He felt that this fishy boy probably needed something.

After being seen through by Old Xue, Lin Ming awkwardly rubbed his chin. He said, “There really is something I need. The reason I returned to Divine Rune City is because I need to buy some materials to refine a pill.”

Lin Ming directly stated a goal.

“Hoh! So you’ve even practiced alchemy!” Old Xue looked at Lin Ming in surprise. With his current understanding of Lin Ming, if Lin Ming dared to say he wanted to refine a pill then his skill in alchemy was likely considerably high.

“You brat, you know to return when you want to make use of us, but are you aware you have zero contribution points!?”

In the Divine Runic Masters Guild, the contributions that a divine runic master made to the guild would be converted into points. Since Lin Ming had been gone for 25 years, he naturally didn’t have any contribution points.

Lin Ming awkwardly coughed. He smiled and said, “There were some matters I had to attend to so I’ve been a bit delayed. I should be staying at the Divine Runic Masters Guild for a period of time, and there really are some rare and precious materials I need to buy, I just don’t know where they are sold.”

As Lin Ming spoke, Old Xue rolled his eyes and sent Lin Ming a look of disdain. He said, “What are you smiling so sadly about? My Divine Runic Masters Guild has the best and most complete material storehouse in the entire world! There are no materials you cannot buy, I’m only afraid that you can’t afford them.”

Old Xue said with full confidence, a great deal of pride glowing on his face.

“Then I’d like to request for you to look over this list and see if I can obtain these materials here.”

Lin Ming smiled and took out a list from his spatial ring. This list had all the materials needed to refine the Ravenous Wolf Heaven Pill. There were a total of 32 different kinds of materials.

Old Xue took the list with a great show of graciousness. Then, he looked over the list.

He was immediately left dumbfounded.

The first several materials on the list were precious, but as long as one had enough money they could be bought. However, the latter materials were horrifying!

There were several materials that even Old Xue had never seen before; he had only heard of them!

“Dragon saliva grass, heaven devouring snake gallbladder, jade dragon’s horn, primal jade quintessence...” Old Xue was left stunned. Not even the Divine Runic Masters Guild had all of these materials!

Although the Divine Runic Masters Guild’s storehouse was rich and abundant, since there were materials that came in, there were materials that went out. If these materials couldn’t be converted into pills and divine runic symbols then they were useless. Thus, after many rare and precious materials entered the storehouse they would soon be traded away to others.

As for the extremely rare and precious materials that were in high demand and couldn’t be bought normally, they didn’t stay in the storehouse for too long.

These materials that Lin Ming had listed, if placed within the Divine Runic Masters Guild storehouse, would require the highest level of authority to use. That was, the authority of a seventh grade divine runic master!

Moreover, the price was bound to be astronomically high, to the point where one would strain their neck!

“Are you messing around with me!?” Old Xue slapped the list on the table, his beard and eyebrows flying up in a rage. He felt that Lin Ming was teasing him; just how could a young junior use these materials!?

In his opinion, even if Lin Ming obtained these materials it would be impossible for him to use them in alchemy. It would be a complete waste.

“Why would we be messing with you? If we buy them we’re definitely using them.” Xiao Moxian backed up Lin Ming.

Old Xue looked at Xiao Moxian, half believing, half disbelieving. He turned back to Lin Ming. “Are these materials things your master wishes to use?”

Old Xue immediately thought. Lin Ming pushed this train of thought along. He laughed, saying, “That’s about right. Do you think the Divine Runic Masters Guild has these materials?”

Old Xue gave Lin Ming a side-eye and leisurely said, “The more general rare and precious materials are indeed here, but I’m afraid that the Divine Runic Masters Guild only has two or three of the most precious materials on this list. Moreover, they are exorbitantly expensive. Not only do you need a massive amount of origin energy runes, but more importantly you need a certain degree of authority as well as contribution points. I estimate that just one of those materials will require 700-800 million points. If you stay in the Divine Runic Masters Guild in the future you will receive a monthly salary of contribution points. As a third grade divine runic master, I think every 18 million years or so you’ll be able to barely afford a few leaves of dragon saliva grass.”

Old Xue mockingly said. As a third grade divine runic master, Lin Ming’s yearly salary would be around 20 points. In 10 million years he would receive 200 million points, just barely enough to buy a single material.

Of course, if Lin Ming rose to a higher level of divine runic master in the future then his salary would also increase. Even then, it wouldn’t be by too much.

Lin Ming wryly smiled, “Old Xue, I’m glad you’re happy teasing me.”

Old Xue spread his hands in goodwill. “I’m just speaking the truth. Even I can’t afford the things you want. But... if your master is willing to join the Divine Runic Masters Guild then he might be

able to obtain what is needed in a short period of time.”

Seeing Old Xue make circles to ask about his master, Lin Ming said, “My master will not come to the Divine Runic Masters Guild. Only I can buy these materials...”

“Ha! Then do as you want.” Old Xue lazily said, his expression saying he didn’t care about Lin Ming’s business. He leaned back in his chair and closed his eyes.

Chapter 1598 – Mission Division

“Lin Ming... what do you plan on doing? 700-800 million points to buy a single one of the materials you need, how could we afford that?”

Although Xiao Moxian's lips twitched as she saw Old Xue's disdainful attitude, she couldn't help but acknowledge that what he said was the truth.

There was simply an astronomical number of contribution points needed to buy these materials. Not to mention that even if they had the contribution points they also needed nine sun jades.

And their nine sun jades weren't enough.

“Let's go take a look. Maybe there's some way we can earn some...”

Lin Ming thought for a moment. He knew that there were several ways in the Divine Runic Masters Guild to earn points.

The first way was a monthly salary. However, as a third grade divine runic master his monthly salary was negligible; it was simply far too little.

The second way was to trade, but Lin Ming couldn't think of anything he could take out to sell for a large number of contribution points. He had some of the pills and divine runic symbols he drew up at the Blue Moon Sect, and some of them were even decent in quality, but none of these things would be able to sell at a good enough price. The people of the Divine Runic Masters Guild simply had too high a standard.

The third way was missions. The Divine Runic Masters Guild often issued out missions. After completing them, one would receive contribution points as a reward.

The fourth way was to contribute one's research results and specialized techniques to the Divine Runic Masters Guild. One

would earn a great deal of rewards from this.

Lin Ming had several special techniques that others didn't know of that he had obtained from the memories of the three divine runic masters he killed. But, these techniques weren't particularly heaven-defying. Even if he contributed them, it was nothing but a drop in the ocean compared to the hundreds of millions of points he needed.

If Lin Ming had a true heaven-defying technique, that would be the understandings of the Asura Heavenly Dao Laws described in the Asura Sutra First Volume. But, Lin Ming hadn't even fully cultivated the Asura Sutra so it was impossible for him to copy down the intricate secrets within, and even if he could he wouldn't reveal the tiniest secret related to the Asura Sutra. This type of inheritance was just far too tempting to others.

Removing the first, second, and fourth way of earning points, Lin Ming could only choose the third way. That was to undergo missions and earn contribution points.

“Elder Xue, I plan to take on missions to earn points...”

“Take on missions?” Elder Xue looked up at Lin Ming in surprise, a strange light glowing in his eyes. “Don't tell me you plan on completing missions to earn enough points to buy those materials...”

Lin Ming nodded. “I'll give it a try. There isn't another way I can think of.”

“Good heavens boy!” Elder Xue looked at Lin Ming like a lunatic. “Have you not woken up yet? Do you know how many points you will receive per mission at your level? I don't know what you've been messing around with during these last 20 some years, but I could approximately guess it. A monstrous abnormality like you can surprise me, but no matter just how amazing your achievements have been in these 20 some years, you shouldn't think of relying on that alone to earn enough points through

missions. If you want to buy all the materials you want, I estimate you will need at least 3 billion points! Even if I wanted to earn 3 billion points I would have to work myself to the bone and I'd still have no idea how long it would be until I would have earned them all."

Lin Ming had already thought of everything that Elder Xue spoke of. Although he had a shortcut to studying the divine runic arts and alchemy, in terms of grade, Lin Ming was still a fifth grade divine runic master. After all, the three divine runic masters Lin Ming killed had been at most at the sixth grade, and wanting to surpass them would take more time.

To practice to the point of being a fifth grade divine runic master in a mere 25 years was far too exaggerated; there wouldn't be anyone who believed this. What fifth grade divine runic master hadn't spent thousands of years or tens of thousands of years to get where they were?

And even a fifth grade divine runic master wouldn't be able to refine the Ravenous Wolf Heaven Pill!

Just the materials alone gave one a headache. Basically speaking, those that could afford the several rare materials he needed were Empyrean level characters. Even a Great World King would feel destitute if they tried to purchase these materials.

However, everything depended on the individual and everything was possible with enough effort. Lin Ming had spent an unimaginable price to first establish the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace and then spent a considerable effort to obtain the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace section of the Celestial Tyrant Manual, finally finding a light on the road. It was impossible for him to give up now.

"Elder Xue, where is the special Mission Division?" Lin Ming asked. He wasn't too familiar with the Divine Runic Masters Guild.

After Old Xue listened to this he rolled his eyes yet again. "You

brat, you don't even know where the Mission Division is. It's clear you haven't come to the Divine Runic Masters Guild even a handful of times!"

Lin Ming hollowly laughed at Elder Xue's grumbling, not speaking back.

"Whatever, whatever, I just think you're crazy so just forget about it. I'll lead you over there so you can see just what the level of rewards is for the missions and finally decide to give up."

Old Xue had sat at his stall all day and hadn't sold much at all so he decided to close shop instead. At his age, it was no longer possible to increase his cultivation and he liked to idle his time away. Setting up a stall was just a casual lifestyle that Old Xue liked to live. He loved the sense of achievement of selling high and buying low, and also finding good treasures. The truth was that he didn't need the stall for any income. This was what people meant by fishing for the fishing and not for the fish.

Old Xue brought Lin Ming through some ancient-looking corridors. Finally, he arrived in another hall of the Divine Runic Masters Guild.

This hall resembled a small city square. The area was considerably broad, covering a wide area. There were a few people here, some young and some old and everyone wore the robes of a divine runic master or alchemist. It seemed they were all people with status.

At the center of the hall was a giant array disc. Above this array disc were floating screens of scrolling text.

This was an illusory magic array. Its role was to project text information and all of these scrolling texts represented missions.

In addition, on the side of the hall there were stacks of scrolls. These scrolls were also missions, but the difficulty was a bit lower than the missions projected on the illusory magic array.

“This is where you can pick up missions! Most of the missions they hand out can be found here. The minor missions give as little as several hundred points and the highest ones are worth a dozen or two million points. But, those missions that give 10-20 million points require you to be at least a peak sixth grade divine runic master. They are extremely difficult and not even I can complete them.”

Old Xue slowly said as he played with a walnut in his hands. This walnut was a magic tool crafted from wood. “Look, I’m not trying to bring you down here, but if you really want to rely on completing missions to buy those precious materials you want then you’ll need several hundred thousand years unless you can rise to an even higher level of divine runic master.”

Lin Ming looked through the mission contents. Indeed as Old Xue said, those that rewarded several million points required one to be a Great World King divine runic master or alchemist to be completed. With Lin Ming’s current strength it was impossible.

Although Old Xue had underestimated Lin Ming’s skill level in the divine runic arts, his conclusion wasn’t wrong in the end. Lin Ming silently calculated. As a fifth grade divine runic master, the highest reward missions he could complete only offered several hundred thousand points.

Moreover, anything that gave several hundred thousand points wasn’t an easy mission at all. These missions took more than four or five days and some even took as long as a month.

If he was obtaining 20,000-30,000 points in one month, he would need to work for over a thousand years to gather 3 billion points.

And this was in a situation where one took missions non-stop. In reality, no one would do this. A divine runic master had to practice, study, go into seclusion, and so forth. It was also impossible for this war to continue for 1000 years.

Lin Ming gained an even deeper understanding of how precious

the materials were that he needed to buy. It was simply impossible for a fifth grade divine runic master to obtain them. The only possibility would be a peak sixth grade divine runic master expending a massive amount of time and effort!

Xiao Moxian also knew what level Lin Ming's skills were at. She worriedly said, "Lin Ming, what can we do? We'll have to participate in the final trial in another 25 years. There isn't enough time for you to earn the points."

"I don't know. Let's continue looking first."

Lin Ming didn't have any plan currently.

Old Xue spread his hands. "Well, now you've seen it. If you want to complete missions to earn enough points for those materials then you're simply living a dream. But if you don't want to give up, you can go to the mission posting office to see if there's some mission that's good for you."

Old Xue pointed at the end of the hall.

Over there was an antique long counter, and standing behind this counter were four or five people. Out of them, a young woman with an explosive figure was the most eye-catching.

This woman wore a flame-colored dress, and this dress drew tight to her skin, accentuating her enthralling curves and buxom, perfectly enchanting figure. The front of the dress had deep, plunging neckline, thrusting down and exposing a snow white valley even as it gave a sneak peak of her proud and full breasts. The tight dress had slits that ran up to the base of her thighs and every movement she took drew the eyes to her waist, inviting one to daydream over the hidden wonders.

Chapter 1599 – Fourth Grade Mission

Seeing the woman in the red dress, Lin Ming was stunned. In the world of martial artists, every place had their own clothing customs. In the human race within the Divine Realm, most clothing types tended towards being conservative. But in the inner Asura Road, many places had women that wore bold and provocative clothing.

And with this woman in front of him dressed the way she was, Lin Ming couldn't help but acknowledge that she had a special flavor to her. She easily aroused a man's desire to conquer and ravish.

“This woman is quite extraordinary...”

Lin Ming said, his eyes remaining glued to the woman's body.

Old Xue cheekily grinned. He said to Lin Ming, “Isn't she a top grade woman? She is from the Extreme Star Holy Lands and her name is Suyu. Don't look down on her, she's not simple at all!”

Old Xue traced his beard, meaning thick in his voice. He knew that someone with an explosive figure like Suyu who dressed in such enchanting clothing exerted a considerably strong attraction towards young men. Her body was like a ripe peach, making everyone want to take a bit of her.

Seeing Old Xue's expression, Xiao Moxian coughed in displeasure. She twisted Lin Ming's arm with her hand.

Women could be strange sometimes. Towards naïve and young competitors, they wouldn't develop any jealousy. For instance, when Lin Ming was in the Blue Moon Sect, Xiao Moxian could see that the Sect Master's granddaughter Qian Qiao had developed a crush on Lin Ming and she was only a third of his age. As long as Lin Ming wanted to he could have easily taken her in as a concubine. Even so, Xiao Moxian had still been very kind to Qian

Qiao, even treating her like she would her own little sister.

But towards this alluring and sexual Suyu, Xiao Moxian couldn't help but think that she was displeasing to the eyes.

Old Xue coughed upon seeing Xiao Moxian's disgruntlement. He straightened himself out and seriously said, "This Suyu is our Divine Runic Masters Guild's contact with the Extreme Star Holy Lands. If you want to take on a mission it's best if you go through her, because since the Extreme Star Holy Lands are at war, there are many missions with a high point reward.

"I see."

Hearing Old Xue's response, Lin Ming found it all amusing. He walked over to Suyu. As he approached he could see that there were six divine runic masters there to take on missions.

Without exception, all of these divine runic masters were men. There were young men as well as middle-aged men. These six divine runic masters were speaking with the red-dressed woman, and from their eyes Lin Ming could see a faint hint of vivid heat.

Normally, young elite divine runic masters had extremely high standards and were never for want of women. There were innumerable women that were willing to throw themselves in the chests of these divine runic masters.

But in front of Suyu, they seemed to have lost all the lofty manners of a divine runic master and fell down in worship at the base of her deep red dress.

This also implied to Lin Ming that this Suyu was not just a beautiful vase, but also someone with considerable strength and methods.

Lin Ming discovered that these six divine runic masters were treated differently by Suyu. Towards the four younger divine runic masters, Suyu was polite and curt in her answers, not really paying much attention to them.

It was only to those two middle-aged divine runic masters that Suyu spoke at length and smiled warmly. And, those two middle-aged divine runic masters were both peak fifth grade divine runic masters, not too far away from becoming sixth grade divine runic masters.

“This woman is quite arrogant. Those young divine runic masters don’t even enter her eyes, but the range of missions that a young divine runic master can complete is indeed limited.” Lin Ming mused to himself.

Xiao Moxian scoffed. “Did this Extreme Star Holy Land specifically send such a sexually charged young woman here to attract all those deviants at the Divine Runic Masters Guild to complete missions for her?”

Lin Ming was startled for a moment before he laughed out loud. Indeed, this was a possibility. Because of Suyu, this Mission Division area might be busier than usual.

Lin Ming pushed into the group of six divine runic masters, causing the four young ones to look at him with annoyance in their eyes.

Lin Ming glanced over their divine runic badges. The four youths were second or third grade divine runic masters. Lin Ming’s badge also indicated he was a third grade divine runic master so their statuses were similar.

“Stop being so pushy!” Someone unhappily said, not recognizing Lin Ming.

Lin Ming had only briefly appeared when he joined in on the divine runic masters examination 25 years ago. Afterwards he left the Divine Runic Masters Guild. Besides Old Xue, Old Su, and the several examination officials present, no one would recognize him.

As that young divine runic master was halfway done speaking, he caught a glance at Old Xue behind Lin Ming. He quickly hid away

all anger and instead put on a bright smile, saying, “Greetings, Elder Xue.”

The two middle-aged men also politely greeted Old Xue. “Elder Xue, it seems you also came for missions.”

Although the two middle-aged men were peak fifth grade divine runic masters, there was a great difference between them and the sixth grade divine runic master Old Xue. This was essentially the difference between a peak Holy Lord and a World King!

It was at this step that countless martial artists were stranded forever, never able to make a breakthrough. It had to be known that even an ordinary World King had the talent of an Empyrean descendant!

“I’m just taking a look.” Old Xue laughed, accepting the greetings of these juniors.

Behind the counter, Suyu brightened as she saw Old Xue, like a peony opening in the shining spring sun. She sweetly said, “Elder Xue, I’ve been here for so many days and there are many missions that I can’t seem to get completed... perhaps you could help me out a little.”

Suyu’s voice was crisp and tender to the bone. If a girl heard it, it might seem a bit fake. But to a man, this was a lethal tone.

Even Old Xue’s beard shook as he heard this; it seemed he enjoyed the attention.

“You old pervert.” Xiao Moxian harshly denounced. Lin Ming chuckled at her response.

“I’m flattered, flattered. I’ll take a few missions since I’m here, but the main reason I came to the Mission Division is to introduce this boy to you...”

As Old Xue spoke he pointed towards Lin Ming. “He entered the Divine Runic Masters Guild 20 some years ago. He’s in a bit of a need for contribution points, so he’ll probably need to do a number

of missions for you.”

As Old Xue introduced Lin Ming, Suya took a glance at his divine runic master badge. As a mere third grade divine runic master, she didn't place him in her eyes.

She didn't really want to bother speaking to such a young divine runic master, but since Old Xue introduced him she couldn't ignore him.

“Raindrop, arrange a mission for him.”

Suya casually said. Beside her a well-behaved little girl took out a pile of mission scrolls and gave them to Lin Ming to look at.

Lin Ming looked over these missions scrolls. They were third grade missions and below. The rewards were several hundred points or even several dozen points; it was really small to the point of being pitiful.

“Do you have higher grade missions?”

Lin Ming asked. Suya was a bit taken aback. Lin Ming was a third grade divine runic master but he wanted to take on even higher grades of missions?

Old Xue wasn't surprised at all. A monstrous freak like Lin Ming simply couldn't be judged by common sense. He laughed, saying, “Since this boy wants to see them, take out some higher grade missions for him. Perhaps he has the ability to complete them.”

Although Suya thought otherwise, since it was Old Xue requesting this she had no choice but to act accordingly. “Raindrop, bring out some fourth and fifth grade missions.”

Raindrop picked out a number of mission scrolls, all of them at the fourth and fifth grade.

Lin Ming earnestly looked through every mission. He carefully analyzed them all, calculating which one had the potential for the most points.

“What an idiot...”

Behind Lin Ming, those several young divine runic masters mocked him without holding back. Of course, because Old Xue was present they could only speak to each other with sound transmission.

“This fellow’s courting tactics are... well, he’s got more guts than we do. We’re only at the level of trying to get closer to Miss Suyu, but this idiot is trying to stir up a big fuss in front of her. We should study his techniques a little later...”

“I bet you he will take out several mission scrolls to bring back. It’s not like he will lose anything if he can’t complete them!”

As the several young divine runic masters spoke, Lin Ming indeed took out several mission scrolls.

These missions scrolls were all fourth grade, but they were also at the highest level of fourth grade missions. Compared to the rewards from fifth grade missions, the difference wasn’t that great.

Lin Ming meticulously looked through these mission scrolls. The more difficult a mission was, the more time it took, the higher the rewards would be.

As a fifth grade divine runic master, Lin Ming had the ability to complete fifth grade missions. But, he also had to calculate the time and energy he would need to invest into these fifth grade missions and after doing so he discovered that the reward to effort ratio wasn’t much higher.

As for these peak fourth grade missions, Lin Ming could rely on his skill and understanding of the Asura Heavenly Dao to rapidly complete them.

Lin Ming took out a total of five fourth grade missions scrolls and lined them up on the countertop.

Looking at the difficulty of these five mission scrolls, the several

young divine runic masters present were left speechless.

“This boy, his skin is too thick!”

Putting on an act all depended on how thick one’s skin was. If one’s skin wasn’t thick enough there was no way they could fake things to such a degree. If they were in Lin Ming’s position there was no way they could pretend to peruse through such difficult missions.

These missions, all of them could only be completed by someone that was at least a peak fourth grade divine runic master!

“He’s forcing this too much. Only an idiot would think he could complete them, and Miss Suyu isn’t stupid so how could she believe him?”

“That’s right, his acting is going to have the opposite effect now.”

As the several young divine runic masters spoke, they indeed saw Suyu frown. If it weren’t for the fact that Lin Ming was brought here by Elder Xue, she would have already sent him tumbling out of the Mission Division.

She felt nothing but disgust for young men that liked to play such tricks.

“These missions, do you plan on completing them by yourself?”

Suyu heatedly asked Lin Ming. Because the reward points given by the Divine Runic Masters Guild were directly placed into the divine runic masters badge, normally divine runic masters would come here in person to receive missions; they wouldn’t send representatives.

Lin Ming didn’t directly answer. Instead, he said, “If I’m taking a mission I naturally have some confidence I can complete it.”

“Haha...”

Suyu faintly sneered. She felt that she had to put some restrictions on people who would appear at her counter in the

future, lest some brain-addled idiots like this Lin Ming appear in front of her again.

“Raindrop, register these missions to him.” Suyu coldly said. She would do things properly for Old Xue’s sake, but the truth was that she had already considered Lin Ming an idiot who was up to no good and had placed him on her personal blacklist.

Chapter 1600 – Three Billion Points

Seeing Raindrop record his name on a mission jade slip, Lin Ming seemed to remember something. He asked Suyu, “The missions you issue, are materials subsidized?”

The missions that the Extreme Star Holy Lands gave out were mostly to have divine runic masters draw up divine runic symbols or for alchemists to refine pills. Upon completion of these missions, the Extreme Star Holy Lands would give the Divine Runic Masters Guild the rewards and then the Divine Runic Masters Guild would convert this reward to an appropriate portion of points and pay the divine runic master.

But besides rewarding points, the Extreme Star Holy Lands also had to subsidize materials with money.

The Extreme Star Holy Lands would only subsidize the bare minimum of required materials to complete the mission. If a divine runic master or alchemist failed in the creation process then they could only eat the losses themselves.

“You also want materials?” Suyu almost laughed out loud from anger. Although she nearly wanted to tell Lin Ming off she had an amazing level of self-restraint. She said, “If you can complete the mission then I will refund the cost of the materials to you. But for now I’ll have to say sorry, you’re going to need to put forth the advance money for the materials yourself!”

“Oh... I see.” Lin Ming still had many nine sun jades left so buying the materials wasn’t a problem. As for Suyu’s reaction, he didn’t care about it at all. He had come here to complete missions and earn points in order to refine the Ravenous Wolf Heaven Pill, not to chase after women.

Lin Ming picked up the five mission scrolls and asked, “Is there a deadline for these missions?”

“Whenever you want!” Suyu coldly said.

These missions usually had a deadline of three months and the sooner they were completed, the higher the rewards were. On the battlefield, time was life.

However, Suyu didn’t have much hope in Lin Ming so she replied thoughtlessly.

“I understand.”

Lin Ming took the scrolls and walked away. Old Xue traced his chin. He said, “Boy, can you really complete a peak fourth grade divine runic symbol?”

Even Old Xue found this hard to accept. A divine runic master needed time to study and improve. No matter how talented one was it was impossible to learn all the required skills overnight.

When Lin Ming left the Divine Runic Masters Guild he had only been a third grade divine runic master. Now, not too long a time had passed so how could he possibly be a peak fourth grade divine runic master?

“I’m bringing them back to give them a try. There should be a chance I succeed.” Lin Ming ambiguously replied, not confirming anything.

Old Xue said, “But... even if you complete these missions, the contribution points you’ll receive are nothing but a drop in the bucket when compared to 3 billion points. If you continue like this you’ll need two to three thousand years to purchase the materials you want. And that is also in a situation where you succeed every time and don’t have to pay for the materials. In truth, even a peak fifth grade divine runic master wouldn’t say that they would succeed every time and if you have to pay for the materials of the failures yourself then your profits will be extremely small.”

Of the missions Lin Ming obtained, the highest one had an 80,000 point reward and the rest were 50,000-60,000.

Even if he completed all of them that would only be around 300,000 points. That was nothing but a fraction of 3 billion.

Moreover, these missions weren't easy at all. The mission scrolls often required 20 divine runic symbols to be drawn up. For an ordinary divine runic master, this would take several months to complete.

At this rate, earning 3 billion points in two to three thousand years would be considered extremely fast.

“These materials are ridiculously expensive...”

Lin Ming helplessly muttered. Of all the pill materials he needed, none of them were inferior to the supreme dragon bone that he found in the God Beast Mystic Realm, and that was something that even Great World Kings would fight for.

After leaving the mission hall, Lin Ming read through the five mission scrolls once more.

The first mission scroll was to refine 30 white yang pills as well as mark them with fourth grade divine runic symbols. If the refining process went smoothly then he could produce 30 white yang pills in three furnace batches.

The second mission scroll was to draw up 20 Thunder God Symbols.

The third mission scroll was to draw up 20 Havoc Flame Symbols.

The fourth mission scroll was to draw up 20 Thousand God Earth Shield Symbols.

The fifth mission scroll was to draw up 20 Bone Battlearmor Symbols.

All of these divine runic symbols were used to kill an enemy or protect oneself. When a martial artist was fighting an enemy they would often find themselves in a situation where they had

exhausted their true essence or were unable to react fast enough. At this time, throwing out an offensive or defensive divine runic symbol could change the tide of battle.

There were even some precious divine runic symbols that could allow one to jump ranks to fight. For instance, in the Marvel Blue Nation, Empress Naye had used a Life Seizing Talisman when Lin Ming attacked her.

At that time Naye had only been a half-step World King. But, the Life Seizing Talisman she had was enough to cause severe wounds to an ordinary World King.

If Lin Ming wasn't skilled in the Asura Heavenly Dao and broke through that life seizing talisman with a single spear strike, then he would have been severely wounded, let alone be able to wound Naye.

The Havoc Flame Symbols and Thunder God Symbols were both offensive symbols, as for the Thousand God Earth Symbols and the Bone Battlearmor Symbols, they were defensive symbols.

Imagine. In a battle when both sides were desperately fighting to the limit and were in their final life or death struggle, at this time, one party would pull out a defensive divine runic symbol to block the other party's attack. Then, the result of the battle could be imagined.

When two armies battled it was a competition of the martial artists' strength as well as a competition of their equipment.

If one side was fully armed, using top spirit artifacts, all sorts of divine runic symbols, and all sorts of pills without consideration for money while the other side used ordinary weapons, then there was no need to imagine what the result of that battle would be like.

Because of this reason, the Extreme Star Holy Lands had paid an exorbitant price to cooperate with the Divine Runic Masters Guild.

“3 billion points...”

Lin Ming stroked the thick mission scroll, lost in thought.

In order to gain 3 billion points, it was impossible to do this by completing these steps in an ordinary manner.

Lin Ming pondered for a long time. Finally, from the fifth grade mission scrolls he picked up the Havoc Flame Symbol!

He planned to start with these Havoc Flame Symbols first.

For the past 25 years, Lin Ming had spent the majority of his time and energy on drawing up medicinal runic symbols. This was because medicinal runic symbols were extremely important to him.

Even so, the principles between the various kinds of divine runic symbols were the same to begin with. With Lin Ming's current strength, drawing up a Havoc Flame Symbol wouldn't be difficult at all.

And this Havoc Flame Symbol was a popular offensive divine runic symbol to begin with so many divine runic masters knew how to draw it up, including the three that Lin Ming had killed.

In Lin Ming's mind, the complete drawing plan of the Havoc Flame Symbol appeared, along with sex fiend Torchriver's version that had slight alterations. If he followed along this method then the Havoc Flame Symbol he drew up would be slightly stronger.

.....

After helping Xiao Moxian settle somewhere else and purchasing enough materials, Lin Ming went alone to the rear court of the Divine Runic Masters Guild. Here there was a special service where they rented out divine runic arts rooms.

"I want to rent a divine runic symbol drawing room."

Lin Ming said to the young lady responsible for receiving guests.

When Lin Ming was in the Blue Moon Sect, he had transformed two rooms in his residence to a simple alchemy room and divine

runic arts room. Of course, if they were compared to a specialized divine runic arts room, the difference was considerable.

A high grade divine runic arts room had an astronomical construction cost. They were often rented according to a daily basis and the costs were sky-high.

“Hello.” A young receptionist faintly smiled at Lin Ming, bowing. “The divine runic symbol drawing rooms are between grade one and seven and each has a different price. Which one would you like to rent?”

“The highest grade possible.” Lin Ming planned to undertake a great battle in this divine runic arts room. He naturally couldn’t fall behind when it came to quality of the facilities.

“Of course.” The young receptionist’s dulcet voice was sweet. She pulled out a price list for Lin Ming. As Lin Ming looked over this list he was left speechless. A sixth grade and seventh grade divine runic arts room needed not just a massive amount of origin energy runes but, more importantly, contribution points. To rent a sixth grade divine runic arts room for a month required 1000 contribution points.

A seventh grade divine runic arts room was even more exaggerated; a single month required 10,000 contribution points.

Lin Ming’s current contribution points were zero. He could only rent a fifth grade divine runic arts room that required no contribution points.

After paying in violet sun crystals, Lin Ming was brought by the receptionist to a divine runic arts room.

Within this room there were different models of divine runic pens, a luxurious divine runic table, as well as various tools needed to process materials.

In addition, the divine runic arts room itself was supported by a giant array formation. The function of this array formation was to

make it easier for one to gather their soul force and could increase the success rate of a divine runic symbol drawing plan by at least 30%.

“I’ll rent this place for half a year.”

Lin Ming said. The young receptionist looked at Lin Ming with surprise. According to Lin Ming’s badge, he was a third grade divine runic master yet he wanted to rent a fifth grade divine runic arts room for half a year. In her opinion this was a considerable waste. But, she had seen many rich low level divine runic masters in her time so she wasn’t alarmed.

“Great.”

The young receptionist bowed and withdrew. In the entire room, there was only Lin Ming left. At this time, Xiao Moxian wasn’t living together with Lin Ming. Lin Ming planned to completely invest his concentration in drawing the divine runic symbols.

He wanted to gather the materials required for the Ravenous Wolf Heaven Pill in three years and then use another three years to refine the Ravenous Wolf Heaven Pill and break through the second Dao Palace of the Nine Stars of the Dao Palace!

To earn 3 billion points in three years, not even a seventh grade divine runic master would brag to such a degree. If anyone else were to learn that Lin Ming had this plan, they would think he was insane.

But, Lin Ming had to do this.

He didn’t have much time to slowly sharpen himself. The most he could stay in the Asura Road for was another 20 some years.

In these 20 some years he had to refine pills, open the second Dao Palace, consolidate his foundation, and participate in the final trial!

Time was of the essence!

He felt the smooth divine runic table. Then, as Lin Ming took a deep breath, his eyes flashed with a brilliant light!

From the time he first came into contact with the inscription technique when he was 15 years old, nearly 70 years had passed. Lin Ming had a special affection towards the divine runic arts because of his past. Now that he had to rely on the divine runic arts to earn these astronomically expensive materials, he was faintly excited!

The pattern for the Havoc Flame Symbol appeared in his mind. Lin Ming took out seven or eight materials and threw them onto an array formation on the divine runic table. This array formation was able to automatically process materials for Lin Ming.

Like this, processing materials and the degree of heat could be controlled by adjusting an array formation. This was also the greatest supportive function of a divine runic arts room. One would be able to save a massive amount of soul force for the divine runic master and guarantee that they had more energy to invest into the final stage of the drawing.

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